

January 2026 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.



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

Giving Is Healthy

A leading psychiatrist once said, "Generous people are rarely emotionally or mentally ill." Giving to God and to others allows us to forget about ourselves and focus on others. Peyton Conway March said, "There is a wonderful law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else." Giving is not just a minor influence on good health, but the key to physical and mental well-being.

Let's Go!

It's Still Christmas

I mean two different but related truths by the title of this article. In the first and more straightforward sense, the Christmas season continues until the day of Epiphany on January 6, 12 days after Christmas (which is also the source of the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”). But this article is about more than a rigid numbering of days. I do not expect you to leave up your Christmas decorations for any set period of time. Instead, I want to help you see that Christmas is not a day relegated to December, much less a calendar time where businesses try to gobble up your precious resources. It's still Christmas because we simply never stop talking about the origin of Christmas day, Jesus Christ.

The angel Gabriel reveals to Joseph, the earthly protector of our Lord, who this child is when he says, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21). When our Lord enters into human history, he acts in linear time. He is born. He grows. He dies. He rises from death. These events happen on certain days, which in turn drives our remembrance and celebration of those days. Every December 25, we remember the birth of Jesus. Every Easter (which changes based on the date of the full moon after the spring equinox) we celebrate his resurrection from the dead. While we tend to talk about certain of these events at different points of the year, they should all be held together in our minds and in our hearts.

It's still Christmas. That baby in the manger, our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Son of God come down to earth in order to save us from our sins. That toddler Jesus, whose early life we know very little about, would enter teenage years and then adulthood. That grown Jesus would travel far and wide, teaching and performing miracles. His life's journey would ultimately take him to Jerusalem, where he would suffer and die for the sins of the whole world, yours and mine included. As often as you need the forgiveness of sins, you need the death and resurrection of Jesus. As often as you need the forgiveness of sins, you need the incarnation of Jesus at Christmas. This is the truth that I want to impress upon you. The need for our Savior will never diminish this side of eternity. Thank God for his great gift of a Savior, the tiny baby in Bethlehem, the youth in Jerusalem, the adult teaching the mysteries of the kingdom of God. You should probably join us throughout the year. We will be talking about Jesus, on Christmas day, on Easter, and every day in between.

Pastor Sam

Let's Go!

NEW EVERY MORNING

"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22&23

Earlier in December, I was reading the Portals of Prayer as I do every morning. The day's meditation was on the above verse from Lamentations. That verse holds special meaning for me. It was about 20 years ago when I got a call that Dad had been taken by ambulance to Alomere Hospital in Alexandria, MN. He was experiencing chest discomfort, and the plan was to transfer him to St. Cloud Hospital for a procedure. A friend was driving Mom to St. Cloud. I dropped whatever I was doing, packed a bag and made the seven-hour drive to St. Cloud.

*Ev'ry morning mercies new fall as fresh as morning dew;
Ev'ry morning let us pay tribute with the early day;
For Thy mercies, Lord, are sure, Thy compassion doth endue.*

By the time I arrived, it was early evening, and Dad was resting comfortably. Doctors had placed two stents in Dad's heart and he was visiting in his hospital room with my son Chris, who lives in St. Cloud. Later, I got Mom and myself settled in a hotel room, and I suddenly realized how tired I was. I was beat -- so much so, that I nearly forgot to thank God for safe travel, and for Dad responding to a safe procedure.

*Still the greatness of Thy love daily doth our sins remove;
Daily, far as east from west, lifts the burden from the breast;
Gives unbought to those who pray, strength to stand in evil day.*

Next morning we were back at the hospital. As we were visiting, a man wearing a clerical collar stepped in. Pastor Holm walked in Dad's room after noting that Dad was from Parkers Prairie. Peter Holm grew up in Parkers Prairie and was a number of years ahead of me in high school. He and his family were members of First Lutheran Church (everyone in town referred to it as, "the Swedish Lutheran Church"). Somewhere along the line, Peter Holm entered an LCMS seminary, was ordained and serving at Redeemer Lutheran in St. Cloud. Dad and Mom were so surprised to see him, and I couldn't stop thinking, "This is a God Moment!"

*Let our prayers each morn prevail, that these gifts may never fail;
And as we confess the sin and the Tempter's pow'r within,
Feed us with the Bread of Life; fit us for our daily strife.*

Pastor Holm shared a meditation on the above Lamentations passage. He reminded Dad of God's unwavering love and mercy. His steadfast love never ceases and His mercies never come to an end, regardless of how many times we stumble. It is good to remember that each day brings a fresh opportunity to experience God's message, and a calling to consider how we respond to our own trials during times of doubt, chaos and moments of pain.

Continued on page 4

Happy New Year ♡ *Happy New Year* ♡ *Happy New Year*

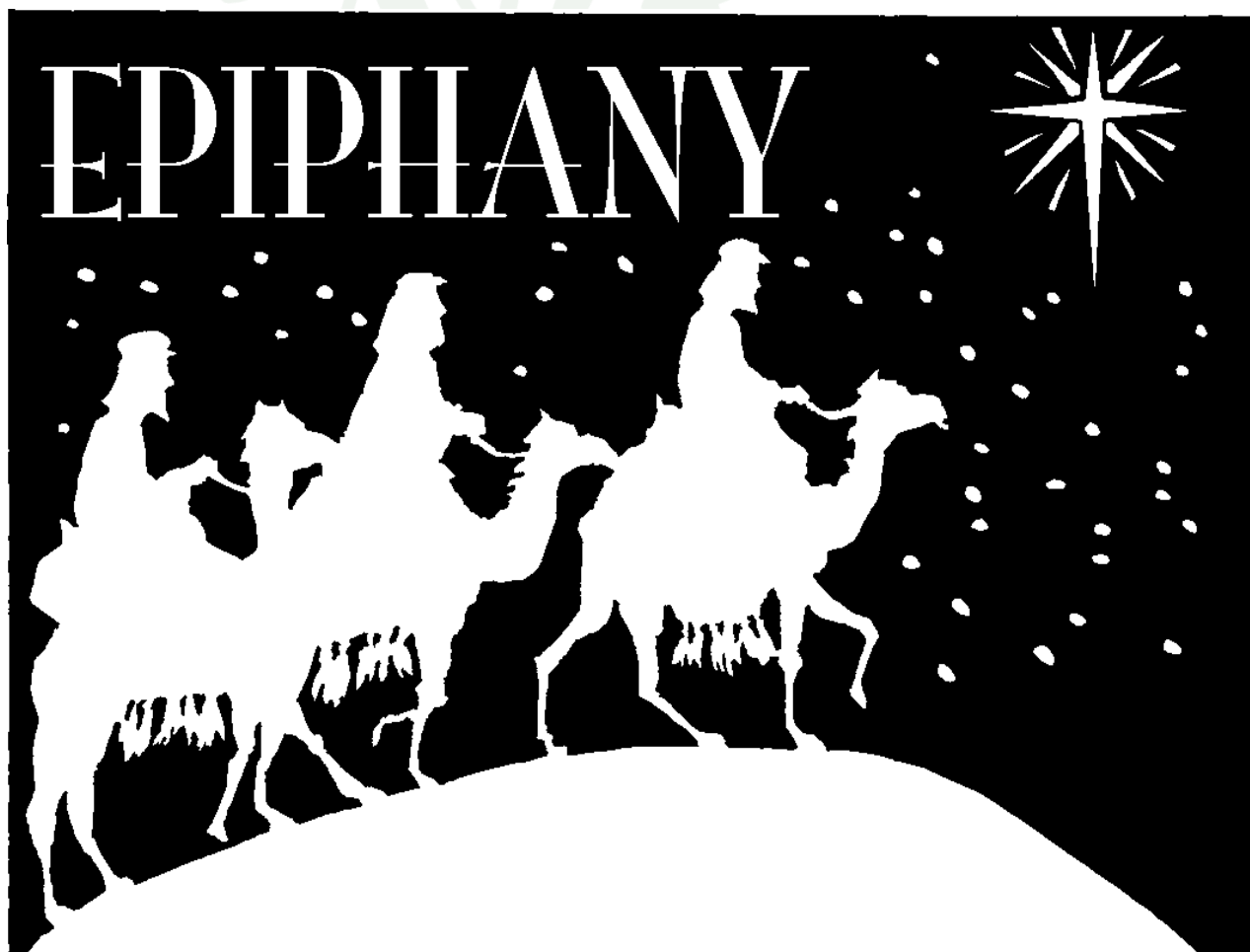
Let's Go!

FOLLOWING THE STAR^{continued}

*As the morning light returns, as the sun with splendor burns,
Teach us still to turn to Thee, ever blessed Trinity,
With our hands our hearts to raise in unfailing prayer and praise.*

Ever since that incident in Dad's hospital room, my ears perk up whenever I hear that verse and my eyes take notice when I see it. It is a powerful reminder that, even during the darkest times and moments, the nature of God's love is eternal and unchanging. When life feels unstable, and we're under the weight of fatigue, regrets and failures, God's faithfulness is the one constant. God was present in a number of lives that day -- certainly Dad's, as well as the surgical team; I was granted safe travel; Chris' steady presence brought comfort; and the fact that Pastor Holm was a hometown boy and selected that precise passage during a time of uncertainty, was definitely a Godsend. With the beginning of a new year, I'm going to remember that no matter what, each morning is an invitation to begin again, and to trust God's plan for my life, even when I can't see the outcome.

Karen Lindbloom



January 6, 2026

Let's Go!

Daycare News

December was a blessed month. We are happy to bring the true meaning of Jesus to the hearts of our little ones. We read many books at nap time to help them understand this and they always have so many questions (if we don't know the answer, we always encourage them to ask Pastor Sam at Chapel)! We hope the new year brings good health and happiness to all of our families and all of you.

As you know, daycare children participated in this year's Christmas Program. It is always fun to watch them and their growth the older they get.

We're looking forward to all the great things to come in 2026. Happy New Year! We hope you all have 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! I cannot believe we are already starting another new year. We hope everyone had a blessed holiday season with family and friends. Preschool had a great time in December learning about the birth of Jesus and having a birthday party for him here at school. I love being able to share the birth of Jesus with the students.

The month of January we will be working on the letters S, I, and M, along with the numbers 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, it's always fun to see what 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



Let's Go!

Birthday Cake Kit Project!

This LWML mission project will provide free birthday cake kits for local families in need

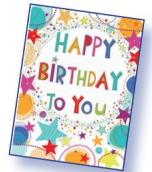
How you can help

“Do it yourself” by purchasing all the items needed and assembling a kit at home **-OR-** donate one or more of the items to be used in a kit. We’ll finish assembling the kits, including adding mixing and baking instructions.

Each kit needs

- 1** - 9x13 aluminum foil pan with lid
- 1** - Box of cake mix (9x13 size)
- 1** - Can of frosting
- 1** - Can of soda (Sprite or Coke works well but can use other flavors)
- 1** - Box of birthday candles
- 1** - Birthday card

Optional:
Add a package of candy lettering or sprinkles



DEADLINE:
Sunday, Feb. 1st



Leave
donations
in the
Narthex

Let's Go!

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 designates.

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 4, 2026.

Midweek

Catechism Classes

Our Midweek classes will resume on January 7, 2026.

Official Acts

Deaths

Jason Jarvis 12/17/25

David Bechard 12/18/25

Eldon Lindquist 12/21/25



I want to know
Christ and the power
of his resurrection....

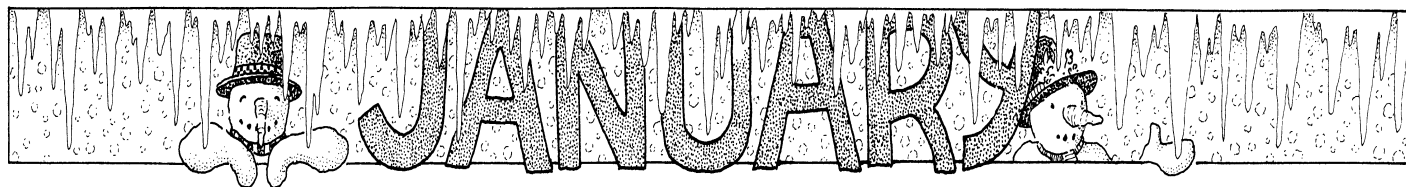
Philippians 3:10

Joy

Psalm 51:12, NIV



“Restore to
me the joy of your
salvation and grant
me a willing spirit,
to sustain me.”



Let's Go!