

Sunday Worship one service at 9 am
 Fellowship will follow at 10 am
 Sunday School & Connect at 10:05 am
 Easter Services 7 am and 9 am

**Repeating events are listed following the first date*

Tuesday, April 1

Wise Guys	9:00 am
Exercise Class (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)	9:00 am
Quilting (1, 8, 15, 22, 29)	9:00 am
Ruth Circle	1:30 pm

Wednesday, April 2

Wednesday Lenten Service (2, 9)	6:30 pm
Choir (2, 9, 16)	7:30 pm
Mentor/Mentee (2, 9)	7:30 pm

Thursday, April 3

Exercise Class (3, 10, 17, 24)	9:00 am
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Friday, April 4

AA (4, 11, 18, 25)	6:30 pm
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Sunday, April 6

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Sunday School-Connect	10:05 am

Tuesday, April 8

Exercise (8, 15, 22, 29)	9:00 am
Deborah Circle	7:00 pm

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

Worship with Baptism	9:00 am
Sunday School-Connect	10:05 am
Fellowship	10:00 am

Tuesday, April 15

Wise Guys	9:00 am
Church Council Retreat	6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Pantry of Faith open	4:00-7:00 pm
Worship with communion	6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 18

Worship	6:30 pm
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Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Easter Services with Communion	7 and 9 am
Easter Fellowship	8 am
Barber Family Easter	11 am

Monday, April 21

Outreach	5:30 pm
Youth Ed.	6:15 pm

Tuesday, April 22

Song Selection Team	5:45 pm
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Wednesday, April 23

Confirmation	6:30 pm
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Sunday, April 27

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Last day for Sunday School-Connect	10:05 am

April Newsletter 2025

Faith Lutheran Church
308 2nd St. NW, PO Box 358
Dodge Center, MN 55927

Message from Pastor Cheryl Indehar

Generosity

“A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

What is generosity? Basically, it is giving freely and abundantly to others. Those others are family, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and even strangers. It is a way of living in the world with others and our interactions with them. It is how we use our time, talents, energy and money.

The “how” of generosity can take many forms. The following forms are: emotional and relational support, monetary support, hospitality support, gift support, and service and volunteering support. All of these are ways we are giving ourselves to others.

Who is to be generous? Anyone can be a generous person. However, we as Christians are called to be generous people. God has been generous with us with his love and goods. We, too, are to imitate his generosity in the world.

When are we to be generous? When we see a need in a person and/or the community, we are to help address that need. Generosity is a way of life. It is to be practiced daily with our loved ones and others.

Why be generous? For Christians we are told it is better to give than receive. It is good to give and receive graciously. As the proverb states, generous people will prosper; it feels good to give of ourselves and resources. Yes, it does cost us something, our time, energy, or money. However, the benefits outweigh the cost. One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is generosity. When we are living by God’s will and ways, generosity is expressed.

It is in giving that we receive, this is a big part of Christianity and being a Christian. If we listen to the world, we can be driven by a lack of supply and scarcity. If scarcity is in your world view it will be harder to be generous. However, if we trust in God and his great abundance we are driven towards generosity. God is willing and able to provide for us.

Continued on the next page

In the book, *The Paradox of Generosity*, they did research on generous and ungenerous people. What the research shows is that people who regularly practice generosity have better well-being in life. They are happier, have better bodily health, a purpose in living, avoidance of depression, and interest in personal growth. Consequently, generosity produces a win-win situation for the giver. That is, whatever is given can bring benefits to us. Let us all continue to work to practice all forms of generosity in our homes, community, and the world. It makes a difference in us and for others.

A Lenten Letter from Bishop Hassanally

To the People of God in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

In the story from 1 Kings chapter 3, two women come before King Solomon, asking him to settle their dispute. They are both new mothers. Their children were born only three days apart. In the middle of the night, one of the infants unexpectedly died. Both women claim it is their child who lives and the other woman's who died. They have come before King Solomon looking for him to determine whose child had survived. Solomon's response to their tragedy is jolting: "Cut the living child in two!" he cries, "Give half to one woman and half to the other." Immediately, one of the women responds, "Please, Your Majesty, give her the living child; please don't kill him." The second woman replies, "If I can't have him, neither will you. Cut the child in half." Solomon responds, "Give the first woman the living newborn. Don't kill him. She is his mother." The first woman, the one willing to give up her son so he could live, is the one to whom Solomon entrusts the child. I have been living with this story for weeks. I am fixated by the first mother's deep love and how love springs to action in a moment of peril. Throughout the Bible, love is demonstrated not as passive or merely emotive, but as action. In the Bible, love operates like a verb; it is always doing something.

In that famed passage from 1 Corinthians chapter 13, the apostle Paul gives us a list of all the ways love shows up in the world: in patience, in kindness, in perseverance, and in telling the truth. Love, Paul writes, "doesn't seek its own advantage."

What I find so striking about the mother's love in 1 Kings is how self-sacrificing it is. The women in 1 Kings, both mothers, are also prostitutes, which is to say they are vulnerable. These women have little standing on their own, but to be the mother of a son...that would shift each woman's social standing. When the first mother is willing to give up her son so that he might live, she is willing to give up *everything*. Her son, yes, but also, in many ways, herself. It is a startling moment of self-emptying love. Her action of love is so deep and profound that it is a preform for the kind of love we see between God and Jesus. It is a love that is self-sacrificing and self-emptying *for the sake of those who are loved*. In the story from 1 Kings, the mother's love compels her to act even in a way that will cost her much. We are entering the forty days of Lent. It is a season for preparation, repentance, and reflection. It is also a season traditionally marked with almsgiving, tangible ways of caring for the poor.

In this Lenten season, I want to invite us into a discipline of love. Not emotive love or passive love, but the kind of robust love that *compels us to act*. The kind of love that does not relent even when it costs us something. It is, perhaps, the kind of love some of us might expect to see expressed by a mother toward her child. And yet, that depth of love ought not to be contained only to parent-child relationships.

In the gospel of Mark, when Jesus is asked to state in simplest terms the commandments of God, Jesus says: "' You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no greater commandment than these." (Mark 12:30-31). The kind of self-emptying, self-sacrificing love we see in 1 Kings, in the gospels, and throughout the story of God's work in the world is the kind of love Christ calls us to possess and exhibit toward *all* creation. It is a love that compels us to act, speak up, and interrupt injustice. It is a love that compels us to release what we cling to for our sake in order that others might live.

We have forty days. Forty days to practice love, to examine our hearts, and to consider who and what we love with the kind of love demonstrated in 1 Kings. We have forty days to wonder where our love falls short and to look for opportunities to take action compelled by deep love. In 1 Corinthians 15:3, Paul writes, "I am passing on to you what I first received..." He goes on to write of the resurrection and promises of Christ. Paul tells the story of the unrestrained, self-emptying love of God. We, too, have received this great love. What we have received we must also pass on. Dear friends, immersed in the depths of God's love in this Lenten season, what will that love compel you to do?

I am with you on the journey.

In Christ,

Bishop Regina Hassanally
Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, February 10, 2025

6:30 Fellowship Hall

Attendees: Karen Kleinwort, Jaci Gosse, Joi Bishop, April Venema, Patty Starkson, Dillon Denter, Michelle Anderson, Allison Rislov, Lisa Wolf, Pastor Cheryl Indehar

Absent: Lois Johnson

Guest: Pastor Emily Carson from SE MN Synod

1. **Opening and Welcome-** Meeting was called to order by President Karen Kleinwort at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Council's Covenant of Conduct-** read by all.

3. **Prayer-** Pastor Cheryl led is in prayer

4. **Treasurer/Finance Report** – President Karen Kleinwort

- Motion made by Allison Rislov to pay SE MN Synod Mission Support monthly instead of in one lump sum, seconded by Michelle Anderson; motion carried
- Motion made by Joi Bishop to approve Finance Report, seconded by Dillon Denter; motion carried

5. **Secretary Report-** April Venema

- December's minutes were approved electronically so they could be published in the February news letter.
- Correction to January 6, 2025 meeting minutes: typo under line item 1- "ad" to "as"
- Lisa Wolf agreed to stay as Outreach Council Liaison. The following is the acting 2025 Council:
 - Executive Team:
 - President: Karen Kleinwort
 - Vice President: Jaci Gosse
 - Secretary: April Venema
 - Treasurer: Joi Bishop
 - Committee Council Liaisons:
 - Call Committee- Jaci Gosse
 - Education- Patty Starkson
 - Outreach - Lisa Wolf
 - Personnel - Lois Johnson
 - Properties- Michelle Anderson
 - Stewardship- Dillon Denter
 - Worship, Arts, and Music- Allison Rislov
- Motion was made by Allison Rislov to approve January's meeting minutes with the changes listed above, seconded by Joi Bishop; motion carried.

6. Committee Reports:

- Call Committee: Jaci G

See under New Business line item 8- Call Process/Council as Leaders

- Education- Patty Starkson
 - Youth/Ed met on January 20th.
 - Quarterly service project Sundays (versus monthly)
 - No need to fill Service project Sundays with Sunday school lessons...but maybe plan some sort of outings instead! Vicki has already done some research on snow tubing (~\$20/person for 2 hours). Anyone below 5th grade requires an adult chaperone. Family pays for tubing...maybe church covers snacks/meal/transportation?
 - 4th grade sacrament class scheduled for 1-21-25...probably push it out until Cheryl can participate...maybe do that and Communion class both in February?
 - New confirmation schedule/structure...Vicki shared a copy.
 - Possibly do a competition for big kids versus littles for who can bring in the most socks that we could send to shelters/vets/pantry recipients.
 - Children's change.... probably need to count and pay for the last 'spin' idea...which we think was some educational supplies or something? Then spin for the next one.
- Outreach - Lisa Wolf
 - No update this month
- Personnel - Lois Johnson
 - The Personnel Committee has not met, but we need to:
 - Formalize a contract with Levi Livingood
 - Document employees operating responsibilities for back-up purposes
 - Review/update the Personnel Handbook
- Properties- Michelle Anderson
 - No update this month-new liaison
- Stewardship- Dillon Denter
 - January:
 - Speaker: Tim-Brown ELCA Stewardship Leader (North Carolina Pastor)
 - a Creating a Narrative Spending Plan
 - b Deciding Areas of Impact
 - c Have Line-Item Spending Plans
 - d Do Time Audits: Figure out where majorities of time are spent whether employee of the church, council member, congregational member, etc. Decide how it all contributes to the overall well-being of the church.
 - e Total Up Your Impact Costs
 - f Tell the Whole Story: Create charts that provide the understandings/purposes of the impacts of what we are doing to members.
 - g Show/tell our story through images of the good/positives being done.
 - h Highlight future plans for the church
 - February:
 - Speaker: Tharan Leopold (Southeastern MN Synod, ELCA Gift Planner)
 - a Endowments conversation.
 - b ELCA Ministry Growth Fund is broken into five categories: Long- term ministry growth, Stability and Success, socially responsible investing, Dedicated guidance and support, Stewardship of ministry.
 - c Three types of planned gifts explanation: A. Outright gifts B. Gifts that return income or financial benefits C. Testamentary Gifts
 - d Three ways to get started with planned giving include: A. Inform B. Inspire C. Invite
 - e Find ways for the congregation to work together with ELCA Foundation.
 - f Considerations to Ponder for the Future of Church: Estimates suggest that between \$30 trillion and \$84 trillion will be passed down in US alone by 2045, making it one of the largest wealth transfers in history

- Worship, Arts, and Music- Allison Rislov
 - No update this month-new liaison

7. Old Business:

- Listening Reports
 - Reviewed action items from the Listening Report from May 2024
 - Committee Liaisons are to bring action items back to their committees to work on them

8. New Business:

- Council as Leaders- Pastor Emily Carson:
 - This event is going to be held on March 8, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Pastor Emily Carson went over the sessions that are being offered and encouraged us to attend.
- Call Process- Pastor Emily Carson:
 - Call Process Manual for Congregational Council was reviewed.
 - Call Committee Retreat will be held for the Call Committee to review the next steps in the Call Process.
 - Installation of the Call Committee will be held during worship on February 23, 2025
 - Installation of Council Members will be held on March 2, 2025
- Council Retreat will be held on April 15, 2025 at 6:00 in place of the regular Council Meeting.
- Giving Request:
 - Triton Post Prom has asked for a donation. Motion was made by Joi Bishop to use funds from Youth General Dedicated Fund to donate \$100 to Triton Post Prom, seconded by Dillon Denter; motion carried.
- 2025 Council Meeting Schedule:
 - Meetings will continue to be held the second Monday of the month except for April's meeting will be held on the second Tuesday for the Council Retreat. No meeting in July. 2026 Budget planning meetings are to be determined.
- Other:
 - The Facebook cover photo has incorrect information about service times. Alison Rislov has corrected this and it has been uploaded.
 -

9. Adjournment/lord's Prayer

- Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:12 p.m. made by Allison Rislov, seconded by Lisa Wolf ; motioned carried
- Meeting ended by sharing the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m

Greetings, Faith Lutheran Family!

There has been much change in the last couple of months at Faith. It is so exciting to see familiar faces, hear laughter, and experience fellowship during worship! Pastor Cheryl has been a blessing in guiding our congregation members, the council, and the call committee as we prepare ourselves for our future.

- Here are some highlights of happenings in the last couple of months:
- The 2025 council members and the call committee has been installed.
- The council and call committee have met/will meet with Rev. Emily Larson, our Liaison, from the Synod to learn the next steps for the call process.
- Lenten services have begun—it is exciting to see our confirmation students visiting with their mentors after worship.
- We were heartbroken with the death of Lois Johnson. She was a hardworking, compassionate, and dedicated council member.
- Keith Pflaum has been appointed to the council in Lois’s place. He will also serve as the Personnel Liaison as Lois did. Thank you, Keith!
- The council will participate in a retreat in lieu of the April 14th meeting. It will be great to connect our new team with a common purpose and norm
- Committee liaisons will be following up with their respective teams regarding the Listening Report items still needing to be addressed. An update will follow soon.
- The Pantry of Faith is successful in helping many people in our community
- Sunday School students are learning to be God’s disciples!

I am thankful for our Faith family. I pray that we will continue to heal together and give thanks to all of you for your time, talents, patience, and perseverance.

In prayer,

Karen Kleinwort

Council President

Financial Picture at Faith Lutheran Church

Currently, Faith is having challenges with our operating budget. For the first two months of the year, giving was \$17,662 and expenses were \$32,483. With the approved budget Faith needs \$4000.00 a week to meet the budget. We are averaging \$2000.00 a week. We are using our savings to pay all our bills. Please prayerfully consider what you may give to maintain the ministries at Faith.

General Fund GIVING and EXPENSES

\$ 9,739 February Giving	\$ 16,807 February Expenses
\$17,662 Year-to-Date Giving	\$ 32,483 Year-to-Date Expenses

Detailed monthly financial statements are located in the church library.

2025 Church Council Members

President Karen Kleinwort
Secretary April Venema
Outreach Lisa Wolf
Properties Michelle Anderson
WAM Allison Rislov

Vice President Jacquelyn Gosse
Treasurer Joi Bishop
Personnel Keith Pflaum
Stewardship Dillon Denter
Youth/Ed. Patty Starkson



The Palm branches on Palm Sunday are given in memory of Herb Highum by the Anderson family.

Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Palm Sunday, April 13

Worship Service and Baptism 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Worship with Communion 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 18

Worship 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Worship 7:00 am

Fellowship 8:00 am

Easter Worship 9:00 am



**JOIN THE
CHOIR**

Choir Practices

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

**The music is easy and
we have fun!**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Saturday, May 31 Mankato, MN

We need one more member to attend the Synod Assembly this spring. Decisions are made at this time such as selecting a Bishop for the SE Minnesota Synod.

Contact the church office or Pastor Cheryl if you are interested in representing Faith Lutheran Church.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!!

In the past three years Faith Lutheran has awarded 7 scholarships to seniors that are members of our church. Each scholarship is \$500 .

Applications can be obtained from the church office. **The deadline for applying is April 18th.**

The scholarship program receives funds from the annual budget of the church and also accepts special gifts. Direct gifts must be identified to the scholarship fund and will be gratefully accepted.

Faith Lutheran does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

April Birthdays

1. Jacob Knutson, Mallory Olson-Ramer, Max Olson-Ramer, Ashley Rohwer
2. Marilyn Barwald
4. Isaak Knutson
7. Kaitlyn Hawkins, Bill Ketchum
8. Debra Roe
9. Dave Wahlstrom
12. Letty Gengler, Anna Ridenour, Kenzie Van Beek
13. Tim Faber
17. Scott Langworthy
21. Mena Faber, Karen Kleinwort
22. Jacob Rislov
24. Missy Pflaum
25. Addie Rohwer, Del Steen Stacy Wolf
26. Litany Peterson
27. Jenna Shallbetter
28. AJ Kozisek
29. Ella Johnson



Worship Assistants & Fellowship

Sunday, April 6

Communion Prep: Ann Trelstad and Lyn Sowieja
Ushers: Mike and Sue Anderson
Reader: Sue Anderson
Soundboard _____
Streaming: Jason Kozisek
Communion servers (3): Jeremy Wahlstrom
 _____, _____
Fellowship: Dan and Judy Fredrickson

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

Ushers: Jim and Sonja Hruska
Reader: Renee Lehmann
Soundboard: Emma Axt
Streaming: _____
Fellowship: Dave and Jeremy Wahlstrom

Maundy Thursday April 17


Ushers: Jim and Sonja Hruska
Communion servers (3): _____
 _____, _____

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

Communion Prep: Ann Trelstad and Lyn Sowieja
7 am Service
Ushers: Dave and Jeremy Wahlstrom
Reader: _____
Soundboard: Vicki Schweiger
Streaming: _____
Communion servers (3): _____
 _____, _____
Fellowship: Faith Lutheran Church

9 am Service

Ushers: Bryce and Karen Kleinwort
Reader: _____
Soundboard: _____
Streaming: _____
Communion servers (3): Deb Dodds
 _____, _____



Faith community

Food Pantry

**Pantry of Faith
Food Distribution**
Thursday, April 17
4:00 - 7:00 pm

This month we are collecting: boxes of cereal, rice, and pasta mixes (suddenly salad, pasta-roni, and Knorr pasta packets). Place items in the Pantry of Faith box that is in front of the library windows.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Lutheran Men in Mission
Breakfast With the Bishop**

Saturday April 26, 2025 9 - 11 am
Cabela's, Owatonna, MN

Everyone, and especially young men, are invited to attend this special event.

Asst. to the Bishop, Matt Larson will be sharing a devotion.
 Keynote Speaker John Sundquist, Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission

Registration Information
Cost: \$15/person (under 20 yrs. old \$10)
Send reservations and check by Friday, April 18 to:
 Russell Tesch, 906 4th Ave SE, Waseca, MN 56093

Sunday, April 27

Ushers: _____
Reader: _____
Soundboard: _____
Streaming: _____
Fellowship: Del and Jody Steen

Please sign up at church or email the office, if you can assist with the worship.
faithdcmn@gmail.com



APRIL

2025

*Holy Communion will be celebrated on
the first Sunday, Easter Sunday and
Maundy Thursday this month*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9 am Wise Guys 9 am Exercise Class 9 am Quilting 1:30 pm Ruth Circle	2 6:30 pm Lenten Service Mentor/Mentee follows 7:15 pm Choir	3 9 am Exercise Class	4 6:30 pm AA	5
6 Communion 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:05 am Sunday School & Connect	7	8 9 am Exercise Class 9 am Quilting 7 pm Deborah Circle	9 6:30 pm Lenten Service Mentor/Mentee follows 7:15 pm Choir	10 9 am Exercise Class	11 6:30 pm AA	12
13 Palm Sunday 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:05 am Sunday School & Connect	14	15 9 am Exercise Class 9 am Quilting 6 pm Church Council Retreat	16 6:30 pm Choir	17 Maundy Thursday 9 am Exercise Class 4 - 7 pm Pantry of Faith open 6:30 pm Worship with communion	18 Good Friday 6:30 pm Worship	19 Terry Lorch Birthday Party
20 Easter Sunday Communion 7 am Worship 8 am Fellowship 9 am Worship Barber Family Easter Party	21 5:30 pm Outreach 6:15 pm Youth/Ed	22 9 am Wise Guys 9 am Exercise Class 9 am Quilting 5:45 pm Song Selection Team <i>Newsletter articles are due</i>	23 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir	24 9 am Exercise Class	25 6:30 pm AA	26
27 9 am Worship 10 am Fellowship 10:05 am Last day of Sunday and Connect	28	29 9 am Exercise Class 9 am Quilting	30 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Choir			

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Watch our services on line on the
Faith Lutheran Facebook page

Faith Lutheran Church Newsletter

APRIL 2025



*Celebrating faith in Christ by worshipping together
and reaching out in love to all God's people.*