



FAITH IN FOCUS
Faith Lutheran Church
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Greetings Faith Family,

" I will call upon the Lord ,who is worthy to be praised ." Yes, even in the midst of our unknown, our quarantine, our social distancing, we have so much to be thankful for. Know my friends that Jesus Christ is the same today and every day. He does not fail us. Speak to him in thought, word and deed.

Our services and activities remain cancelled except for the planned Pantry of Faith distribution on April 7th. The committee is making coordinated arrangements for a curbside pickup. A small team will be packing the food items closer to the date and distribution will be drive up only. Our food supply is low and bulk purchasing is currently more difficult. If you can assist with food donations please let Carol Johnson or myself know. Additional ways of service...our media is flooded with needs for medical masks. There are varied patterns on the internet. If you are a seamstress or looking for new projects to fill your time please consider making these masks. Our quilters have been contacted and do have material available. Please, again contact the church with willingness to sew or a need for fabric.

The Triton school has requested a need for paper lunch bags for student meal deliveries. We, as a church, have been supportive of this need. If you have extra lunch bags, please contact the Triton school system. Additionally, there is a Triton backpack program that has been implemented allowing students to get milk, bread and eggs at local grocery centers within our district. Financial donations are needed and accepted. Please contact Jaci Gosse, 507-259-6006, for this program.

Faith Lutheran members, I am humbled by the response of individuals willing to make weekly phone call connections with each of you. These calls are done with the love and concern that we share with and for one another. Love God first, love the neighbors second. Thank you to those involved in this ministry.

Many have asked about connections and resources for spiritual ministry. There are many, many sites that persons may go to on the computer. I share only a few that I myself have gone to. These sites are with a Faith Lutheran connection. You tube: Zion Lutheran Church, Pastor Sue Wallager; www.stpaul-lc.org. Pastor Allyson Bowman; Facebook:Faith Lutheran Church -Balsam Lake, Gary and Mary Norstad's daughter-in-law as pastor; Facebook: Jackie Short is doing 3 messages daily Mon-Friday; Justin Boeding, also has sermonettes and church services on Facebook, [justin.c.boeding /videos](https://www.facebook.com/justin.c.boeding/); You tube: Trinity Lutheran, Hayfield; Pastor Lisa Carlson at Our Saviors in Owatonna has a Sunday worship service on their website: oursaviorsowatonna.com. On television (ABC), Sunday mornings at 10 am from Albert Lea *Peace and Power*. Many additional churches have sites and you may already have your favorites but, please continue to be spiritually lifted and comforted during this time of social distancing.

A difficult topic to address is church finances. Please know that your council has made a commitment to our church employees to keep everyone employed during this time. Though there is closure of our building, our bills continue and so, will payroll. I encourage you to continue in your financial pledges and gift giving. Please mail checks to Faith Lutheran Church, PO box 358, Dodge Center, MN 55927.

" We give thee but thine own what 'ere the gift may be. All that we have is thine alone."

Our pastoral candidate is aware of our journey timeline changes. We are assured by the commitment of this individual to us ...as the candidate is equally assured of our commitment in the call process We keep the date of our special congregational meeting as May 10th.

Peace my Faith Family .
Sue Anderson, Council President

PRAYER MINISTRY

Faith has an active prayer ministry. If you desire prayer, please contact the church office at (507) 374 -2174 or stop into the church office. Names will be listed here for two weeks, after which time they will be removed unless we hear from you to keep prayers active.

Please pray for:

The family and friends of Lorraine Reha, the family and friends of Marilyn Merseith, the family and friends of Bill Feil, the family and friends of Dennis Waskosky (Milt Kuball's relative), Karen Ingvaldson, Lollita Adams (Candy Mulholland's mother), Keeley Kleinwort Neil, Wayne McColley, all our members that are homebound and in care facilities, first line care givers, medical suppliers, store managers and workers, truckers, deliverymen, first responders, farmers, all people that we rely on now more than ever, Teachers as they determine plans for new means of educating students, the students as they accept new learning and distance education, family units as a new normal in everyday living is established, for all people suffering from anxiety related to fear and isolation, Castillo Fuerte and Bishop Ata in Bogotá, Colombia, our church as we prepare for a new pastor, Bishop Regina Hassanally and the SEMN Synod.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 22-31 Birthdays

22. Alan Lange, Bev Oakland
23. Larry Blood
24. Iain Short, Gary Trelstad
25. Brenda Bronner
26. Melissa Boeck
27. Madelyn Asprey, Nancy Erdmann, Brady Staub
28. Autumn Dean, Nathan Marquardt
29. Oscar Hinrichson, Carol Ann Thompson
31. Val Langworthy

Happy Anniversary

March 25-29 Anniversaries

25. Ryan and Brianna Schrom
29. John and Shirley Chapin

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Since the church doors are shutting across our country, remember that **WE ARE THE CHURCH**, it has never been about the building.

How can you help ?

Quilters/sewers: Fairview Care Center, Prairie Meadows and other care facilities could use some masks for their workers. Kasson Variety is giving away material to make masks but do not have elastic. We have a pattern at church, if you need one or there are many patterns available on line.

Pantry of Faith: The Pantry of Faith will be having a curbside pick-up of groceries in the west parking lot on Tuesday, April 7 from 12-3 pm and Thursday, April 9 from 4-7 pm unless the governor places more restrictions on travel. The Pantry could use non-perishable items for the distribution. Also, help by telling anyone who needs food to come to the church and a volunteer will bring the bags out to them. They should bring something that indicates they are a resident of Dodge County and they can only get groceries for themselves.

Cards: We have a list of members that have been homebound for awhile or in care facilities that would appreciate a card since they have not had visitors for weeks.

Delivery service: Offer to pick up groceries or other supplies for people who are at high risk and cannot leave their home. Anyone that needs these services can let the church know and we will try to arrange items to be dropped off at your home.

General fund: Without our Sunday worship services, our church is not receiving the offerings that we usually receive on Sundays. Please mail your offering envelopes to the church or consider signing up for Simply Giving so that we can keep our fund balance healthy, also.

Prayer: Continue to pray for people on our prayer list, especially the families who are not able to attend funerals for their relatives or friends.

MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS

Daily thoughts to ask yourself

1. Who am I checking on today?
2. What expectations of normal am I letting go of today?
3. How am I getting outside daily?
4. How am I moving my body?
5. How am I being creative?
6. What type of self-care am I practicing?
7. What am I grateful for today?

About the toilet paper dilemma

Toilet paper will not get you into heaven. That's not what it means when we sing, "When the Role is Called Up Yonder."

COVID-19

Christ Over Viruses and Infectious Diseases

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

A Prayer for Faith Lutheran

Gracious God, it is good for us to gather as your beloved in community. We treasure your presence with us in word and meal, song and prayer. Be with us in these days when gathering together as often as we would like is not possible. When we must be apart for reasons of safety, we trust that you surround us with your sheltering wings. Encourage us in connecting as we are able, reaching out to our neighbors in need and being persistent in prayer. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our constant companion. Amen.