



# MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N. Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

## Compassion Sunday

The Board of Missions invites you to join them for *Compassion Sunday*, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be child sponsorship packets on the Compassion International table of children you can view, and if so moved, can sponsor. It costs \$38 per month to sponsor a child. Bob Green and Annette Hill will be the con-

tact persons for this event and invite you to speak with them if you have any questions. There will be a presentation in between the two worship services in the Christian Family Life Center also. *“Founded in 1952, Compassion International is a Christian child development and child advocacy ministry dedicated to help-*

*ing over 1.9 million children in need worldwide. Compassion’s programs help release children from*



## Vacation Bible School

**The Theme for this year’s Vacation Bible School will be:** *A Mighty Fortress: In Jesus the Victory is Won!* Our VBS dates for this year are: June 5-9. Registration will be made available Sunday in between services and after the late service on June 4. Sign-ups for adult volunteers, decoration help, and student guides are on the back table in the Narthex or hanging outside the wall by the sanctuary.

**Monday, June 5, 2017 through Friday, June 9, 2017**

☐ Pre-Registration is Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> in between services or after late service @ Faith in the “Living Room”



☐ 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM each night MONDAY-FRIDAY @ Faith

☐ Faith Lutheran Church  
714 North Grand Avenue, Pierre, SD

**Jump into a VBS that's all about Jesus!**

Ages 3 through 6th grade are invited to *A Mighty Fortress VBS*. At *Mighty Fortress*, kids learn that God is their refuge and strength. They may not ace the test or make the team, but God promises to be their rock and their salvation—their fortress and sure defense. In Jesus, the victory is won! Children learn through

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*



## The Forgotten Festival

I've heard it called by some, "the forgotten festival". What am I speaking of? The Ascension of our Lord. Perhaps it's because it usually falls on a Thursday. Perhaps it's overshadowed by the grand festival of Easter. Whatever the reason, many simply overlook the importance of this Holy Day.

For your reference, this year, the Ascension of our Lord falls on May 25<sup>th</sup> (but always occurs forty days after Easter). We may wonder at times why Jesus didn't just stay on earth after His death and resurrection. One could make the argument that life would be so much better if only Jesus had stayed on earth to be our Shepherd and King. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could just call up Jesus on the phone and tell Him our troubles and ask for His counsel and blessing? That said, I assure you that because Jesus ascended into heaven, we can go to Him and He will hear us and continuously give His blessings.

Listen to what Jesus tells His disciples, **"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."** (John 16:7) In other words, it is for our good that He returns to His Father, because when Jesus leaves He will send us the Holy Spirit. It is through the Spirit that we are guided and directed into God's knowledge and truth. The Holy Spirit's work is powerful and it is just as real today as it was on the day of Pentecost (which, by the way, is observed ten days after the ascension of Jesus which means this year it will be on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>).

Ascension Day, however, is the coronation celebration of our Lord as He is proclaimed to be King of the universe. Jesus' ascension to the Father is His entrance to the greater existence beyond the confines of time and space, being no longer bound by the limitations of His state of humiliation. Seated at the right hand of God, Jesus now intercedes on our behalf and for our good. Yet, our Lord remains present with us who remain



bound by time and space. He is with us as true God and true man, exercising His rule in the Church through the means of grace which He established: His Word and His Sacraments. We mortals, in those means of grace, can grasp the King of the universe and are given a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to come.

In reality, you'll find quite a bit about the Ascension of Jesus in both the Old Testament (see Isaiah 6, 52-53; Ps 106, 110; etc.) and the New Testament (see Matthew 22; John 20; Acts 1; etc.). Yet, in all of these passages, the key take away is the truth that Jesus has more than enough power and authority to keep all His promises. In other words, as the King of kings and Lord of lords, what Jesus says goes. Therefore, when Jesus says: **"baptism now saves you" (1 Peter 3:21); "whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day" (John 6:54); and "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16)** ...He says it for you. And He will always deliver.

So, the Ascension of our Lord is a time of celebration and a source of comfort for all who trust in Jesus. He has the ability and authority to keep all His promises to you. And He will surely do it.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

*Pastor Cory*

.....  
*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*



## “A Window of Opportunity”

I am always deeply humbled when I consciously stop and think about God’s gracious love for His people—His people who are both sinners and saints, redeemed by the precious blood of His Son. And so, we are moved to give out of love because God gave for us. One of my joys is to go upstairs in the gym balcony and watch the activity that takes place in the gym. The congregation has been given much and in turn, has been truly generous with the use of the building to various groups and activities. Last week it was 200 D.O.T. workers gathering for a meeting and then competing by using their heads to move a beach ball across the gym and around chairs in a team building competition. I watch the daycare kids play from up there. Pickleball or Men’s club throwing darts is always fun too. The LYF high school group drops eggs from those windows in hopes that their team’s “device” is built well enough to give the eggs a safe “cushion” when they hit the tarp. Those windows sure provide me with lots of opportunities and enjoyment! “Pastor, can’t someone fall out of one of them?” Well, you’d really have to try hard, and we praise God that parents and children take good care when up there. So no, it’s been a really good thing for the parish and I’m glad we have them. You can see a lot through those windows! They are a reminder of God’s gracious love through the people of this parish, as we share with our neighbors what we’ve been blessed with—7 big windows!

So, what’s your window? As others look into the window of your heart what do they see? Hopefully they see the love of Christ within you, which fills you. Hopefully they see a life that is transparent for the Gospel, a life that is giving, a life that is a bold witness of faith in the Savior, a life that says “No!” to sin and temptation. Perhaps we would ask God to remove us out of the way so that others can only and more clearly see Jesus Himself in us. St. John says it best when he conveys to us the heart attitude of John the Baptist in John 3:30. John the Baptizer says, “*He must become greater, I must become less.*” May that be the prayer of our hearts as well. “God remove me so that others can more clearly see You.” It was subtle, but something powerful happened in your baptism. God’s Holy Spirit entered your life and created a window of faith. God increases, we decrease. That’s the life of a follower of Christ. Things suddenly become less about me and my goals and aims in life, and more about: “What does the loving Savior, the God of the Universe, desire from me, right now, today, here in my daily living?”

A window...it’s a good thing. Use the windows God has given to you. They come in different ways and in the form of your life connections with other people. You have connections and windows Pastor Baumann doesn’t have, and Pastor Baumann has connections you don’t have. But what we do have in common is that our lives can be windows into what the love of Jesus is like. We will all reach different people. Our lives can let others see a God who went all the way to the cross of Calvary in faithful obedience to God the Father. And yet it doesn’t stop there. Our lives are also a window to see into the open tomb of Jesus Christ. “He is not here! He has risen! Just as He said.” Jesus, who once was dead is now alive! Every day we are an Easter people who have hope in Christ. So, when someone walks by your life, let them see Jesus! Let Sunday worship be an anchor point of your week. It all starts by being in the House of God. It’s there that we get an open window into the love and justice of our God who saved us and called us to a holy life. When God closes a door, may He always open a \_\_\_\_\_!

**In Easter Joy and Resurrection Hope,**

*Pastor Joshua Baumann*





## ARE YOU LISTENING?

*“For God alone my soul waits in silence...” Psalm 62:1a*

A few weeks ago, a friend sent me a quote: “Singing a cappella is one of the best ways to sing, as it turns out. You learn how to listen to yourself and tune up to each other, getting all the intervals right, blending harmonies so that many voices become one; each voice lifting the others.” The author of that quote is the “Queen of Country Music,” Reba McEntire. Betty and I like to tease each other. She loves country music, especially Reba, and I’m grounded in classical music.

However, there is a lot of truth to that quote. Quite a number of country, folk and blues artists got their start singing in their church choirs. Even Elvis Presley sang gospel music with his close friends. Much of that genre is rooted in the south, and much of it was sung a cappella, meaning unaccompanied. One of the most popular ensembles at the current time is Pentatonix, a five-member a cappella group that shot to stardom after winning Season 3 of The Sing-Off. Their difficult arrangements and tight harmonies set them apart from the rest of the a cappella pop community. The St. Olaf, Luther, and Gustavus Choirs are all noted world-wide for their pure, unaccompanied choral style.

A great share of choral music is accompanied. Piano or instrumental accompaniment provides support for the singers, and can lift the musical selection to a new level. (Sometimes I’ve said that it can also cover a multitude of sins.) Singing a cappella is highly challenging; it requires complete concentration, a good ear for pitch and good listening skills – not only to the other vocalists, but also to one’s own voice. The voices are exposed; pitches and rhythms have to be exact, and all the singers have to blend and be aware of style. Rehearsing needs to take place in a quiet environment.

Listening in a quiet environment made me think of “Soul Spa,” the Bible Study our Tuesday group is currently working on. We can more clearly hear God’s voice in the quiet. God doesn’t necessarily always speak to us in a powerful, dramatic way. Most of us lead busy lives and encounter stressful days. It can be difficult to hear His voice above the noise of the world. Take a few quiet moments of quiet solitude each day and listen. God will meet you there and fill your empty soul.







## 2017 Food Drive: Over A TON of Food!



The congregation of Faith Lutheran Church has once again shown tremendous generosity during the annual gathering of food for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry.

During the month of March, the congregation brought **2,378.48 pounds of food items and paper products** to the church. That was nearly 300 pounds more than last year, and is a record in terms of the number of pounds donated by the congregation. There were 2,126 items, up by 126 from our 2016 total. The Food Pantry estimates that will help supply food for local families in need for at least 2 to 2-1/2 months.

In addition, members of

the congregation gave **cash and checks totaling \$1,015** to the Pantry in conjunction with this year's Food Drive.

On April 3, members of the congregation used Al Meier's super-sized trailer to haul **165 boxes** from the church to the Food Pantry, which is housed at the Boys and Girls Club.

### Among the items collected this year:

277 cans and packages of soup, stew, chili and ramen noodles  
247 cans of vegetables  
172 cans of tuna, chicken, and other canned meat  
156 boxes of macaroni and cheese  
126 cans of fruit  
101 cans and bags of beans  
74 boxes of cereal and oatmeal  
66 cans and jars of spa-

ghetti sauce, tomato sauce and tomato paste  
62 boxes of Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, Chicken Helper and Homestyle Bakes  
60 bags and boxes of dry pasta  
49 boxes of potato mixes  
49 cans and boxes of milk  
70 cans and boxes of pasta meals  
52 bags and boxes of rice and rice mixes  
47 boxes of crackers  
33 bottles and cans of juice  
25 boxes of pancake mix  
21 bottles of syrup

### Thank You!

Faith Lutheran has one of the largest food drives for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry each year, so the





## THIS & THAT

### THANK YOU!

The Board of Education would like to thank the family of Elsie Shoup and the ladies of LWML for purchasing new tables and chairs for some of the lower level Sunday School Classrooms. Elsie's family gifted the monies in her memory and the ladies of LWML decided to put that towards new furniture.

\* \* \*

### OPEN HOUSE

Please join us for  
A Retirement Open House  
honoring

JAN LARSON

Saturday, May 13, 2017  
2:00-4:00 PM

Faith Lutheran Church  
Christian Family Life Center  
714 N Grand Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

Hosted by Tim, Kelli & Heidi  
And the Board of  
Early Childhood Education



*Seniors' Gathering*

\* \* \*

### FOREVER YOUNG

Thursday,  
May 18, 2017

We will gather at noon for our monthly luncheon and fellowship. Forever young is a group of retired and semi-retired members who gather together the third Thursday of each

month for food and fellowship.

Join us. Potluck!

### FOR THE RECORDS

The congregation sent the Concordia University St. Paul Band a donation of \$250.00 following their spring tour visit to Faith Pierre in Early March. The band was able to play a number of musical selections in worship for one of the services, hosted a clinic at the high school, and held an evening performance there as well. We pray God's blessings upon the band and their director as the school continues to form students to share the love of Jesus Christ.

### Men's Fellowship

All men of the congregation are invited to join our Men's group May 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM for an evening of tossing bean bags, and



## Men's Softball



some great fellowship with your brothers in Christ.

Please bring a snack to share.

Faith Lutheran has again teamed up with Factor 360 to play in this year's men's softball league. If you are able, we invite you to join the team and play. Please contact Dennis or Pastor Baumann soon if interested. The team plays on Friday nights during the summer months starting Friday, May 5. We thank Dennis Ryckman for paying the registration fees and leading the





## Official Acts

### Baptisms

Jamyson Michael Marsh

Kaden Daris Kampfe

Tessa Louise Beyer

Ryder Lee Samide

Serenity N. Samide

### Funerals

John R. Walker



## Voter's Assembly

May 7, 2017

9:45 am



Voters Meeting

## Our Confirmands



Trenton Lee William Gore

Nathan John Haberling

Lane Edward Hedglin

Ajaye Grace Hicks

Jacob Michael Larson

Elliot John Leif

Nicholas Steven Mammenga

Dayna Jane Martinmaas

Molly Elizabeth Neyhart

Jayden Nathaniel Nickerson

Kaylie Marie Rathbun

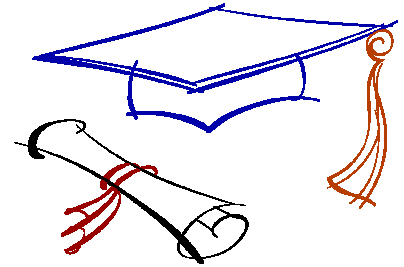
Shelby Dawn Roman

Hannah Louise Schochenmaier

Christopher Laurence Schultz



## Our Graduates



Michael Dean VanDeWiele

Cassandra Elizabeth Axtell

Dillon Dean Axtell

Chase Aaron Bolte

Gage Jay Deal

James Michael Fuerst



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

What a blessing this past year at preschool has been! We were privileged to care for and instruct over 65 children from our community and in return received a bounty of blessings ourselves. God is so good! We are praying that the weather will be beautiful on May 12 so we can have our picnic outside at Griffin Park. However, if it is not nice enough to be outside, we are so thankful to have our Christian Family Life Center for the "graduation" ceremony and picnic. It is a fun way to end our year.

During April we had a Music Day where four musicians from the community came in and let us find out about their instruments. They were: Ron Woodburn (trombone), Mary Jo Johnson (clarinet), Karen Lindbloom (percussion) and Rebecca Hancock (viola and violin). Thank you to these talented people for giving their time to our little

ones. What a fun day! We are also once again heading to the SD Discovery Center for our final field trip of the year. Another fun time for the preschoolers!

We currently have openings in our Tuesday/Thursday afternoon class for next fall. Please feel free to send in your registration to be put on a waiting list. Even though there may be several people on the list, many times when I call for an opening, the people have made other arrangements.

Thank you to all of you that designated your Thrivent choice dollars to the preschool. These dollars will go far to help with many of our expenses including our curriculum and toys and equipment needs at preschool. Thank you too for saving those Dakotamart receipts. These seemingly small things add up to several hundred dollars for

our program.

This is my final letter as director/teacher of Faith Lutheran Preschool. I am sad to say good-bye to a wonderful career and all the children and families, but it is time for someone else to take over the program. I am looking forward to the next step in my life's journey!

Carissa Naasz has been hired as the new director/teacher. I am asking for your prayers for her as she steps into this new role. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our preschool. It has truly been a privilege and honor to be able to share Jesus' love with these little ones these many years. Thank you for making it all possible.

My family will be hosting an open house to celebrate my retirement on Saturday, May 13 from 2:00-4:00 in the Christian Life Center. I



Hong Kong Pancake Breakfast  
Men's Club work crew.

### Hong Kong Short-term Mission Trip Fundraisers Sponsored by the Board of Missions and Faith's Men's Club

Since January gifts in the amount of \$1,756.52 have been given to help with expenses for Nick Hill to go on a short-term mission trip to Hong Kong.

Pastor Cory Rajek and John Barber presented Nick with a check.

We ask God's continued blessings on these trips.



*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*





## Bible Bowl News

Congratulations to our Faith Pierre Bible Bowl team on winning the state A League Bible Bowl runner up championship trophy. I am proud of them as Bible scholars but I am even more proud of them as the great role model Christians that they are. They do so many things and do them so well. They have big hearts. They won first place in the purple pool in the morning which is how they got to the A League in the afternoon. They fell short by one question in the championship match. They lead going into the 15th of 15 questions.

Our Faith Pierre team members are Deni Zeeb, Gracie Zeeb, Ethan Hill, Simon Hill, and Eric Spitzer. We had two winners in the individual Bible Bowl competition. They competed with about 60 of the best Bible scholars in the state. Gracie Zeeb won 10th place and received a certificate. Deni Zeeb won 2nd place and a silver trophy.

We give a special thanks to Annette Hill who coordinated our lunch. Thank you to the Zeeb, Hill, and Spitzer families for all their support and kindness. And we thank Sandy Hobart who is my Bible Bowl assistant coach. We thank our Pastors Baumann and Rajek who provide us with spiritual leadership.

We welcome back Cassandra and Joshua Ryckman for next



Before Bible Bowl

Front row: Deni, Eric, and Gracie

Back row: Simon and Ethan

year. They had a family special situation this year. We welcome new comer Allison Hill who is currently in 5th grade. Pastor Kniefelkamp, King of Bible Bowl, announced next year's book is the gospel of John so we are already working on next year.

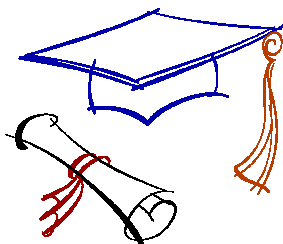


After Bible Bowl

Front row: Eric, Gracie, and Deni



## FLC YOUTH PAGE



**SENIOR SUNDAY** On May 21 all the Seniors from both Stanley County and Pierre are invited to participate in early service as we recognize you, and also to stick around in between shortly for brief light refreshments and recognition.



### May 7 – Good Shepherd Sunday

Early: Pacen Banuat, Jessica Weber

Late: Joseph King, Bailey Siebrasse

**Sunday School Children** will be singing on Mother's Day, April 14, at the 11 o'clock service. All Midweek Youth in Grades 2-8 are expected to sing for service. The children will meet at 10:40 in the Preschool room.

### May 14 Midweek Class Sings for Mother's Day at the 11 O'clock Service

Early: Andrew Axdahl, Jesse Jares

Late: Adam Schochenmaier, Trevor Hayes

**Pierre Circuit Bible Camp** is fast approaching! This summer event is for all youth who will be in incoming grades of 5th through 9th. The dates of camp are Monday, July 17-Thursday, July 20. The cost is \$90, but Faith will scholarship \$30 of that for members. We will be going to Valentine, Nebraska this year. Includes camping, swimming, tubing on the Niobrara, snacks, canoes, Jesus, and YOU! Sign-up today (back table in Narthex). Please in-

### May 21 Senior Sunday

Early: Rebecca Norris, Kenzie Trujillo

Late: Hannah Lingle, Megan Pease

### May 28

Early: Sammie Axtell,

Cassie Axtell

Late: Kassie Tronvold,

Kailee Schultz



### Acolyte Training Sunday

**Evening May 7<sup>th</sup>**. This training is for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders, or anyone who wants a refresher, to prepare them for acolyting next. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders are to be present from 4:00-5:00 pm on Sunday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary at Faith followed by an elder sponsored pizza party.

**OUR LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL** is going to be Sunday, May 14.

**MIDWEEK — Our last night of Midweek classes for this year is going to be Wednesday evening May 3** concluding with an ice cream party (outside) and an invitation to the "grandparents" which

the youth have been sponsoring throughout the year through the *Grandparents Project*. We also want to remind our Midweek students that they will be singing on Mother's Day, which is Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the 11 o'clock service.

**Did you know? Camp Minneboji...** dates for this summer are set and will be Sunday, June 25 through Saturday, July 1. Registration sheets on the back table in the Narthex. A shuttle will be provided to and from camp. Pastor Baumann is coordinating those efforts.



And again this year, Faith Lutheran will scholarship each participant \$90 to attend Camp Minneboji. We would also work to coordinate transportation to and from the camp destination. Please e-mail ([faith@faithluth.com](mailto:faith@faithluth.com)) or speak with Pastor Baumann concerning any questions. Please sign up early so we know correct numbers.

### Upcoming Youth Dates to Keep in Mind:

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>** Last day of Midweek

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** Last day of Sunday School

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** Midweek students sing at the 11 o'clock service

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** Senior Sunday Reception