

# MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

**FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
714 NORTH GRAND AVENUE**



## Corned Beef 'N' Cabbage Meal Sunday, March 15, 2026

Noon meal following the late  
service

Freewill Offering proceeds will go  
toward the Mexico Mission Trip

It is back again this year! The Kenefick-  
Aschoff family is organizing the Corned  
Beef 'N' Cabbage meal as we have done  
in the past.

**Menu:**  
**Corned Beef 'N' Cabbage**  
**Red Potatoes**  
**Macaroni and Cheese**  
**Dark Rye Bread**  
**Bread Pudding with Caramel Sauce**

This meal will be once again be served  
family style. Take-out or eat in. Please  
sign up in the Narthex so that we prepare  
enough to fill as many orders  
as possible.

## Lenten Schedule

### Midweek

### "O Love, How Deep"

**March 4, 2026**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

" "

**March 11, 2026**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

" "

**March 18, 2026**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

" "

**March 25, 2026**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

" "

**April 2, 2026**

**Maundy Thursday**

7:00 pm

" "

**April 3, 2026**

**Good Friday**

7:00 pm only

" "

**April 5, 2026**

**Easter Sunday**

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

" "

## “Listen to Jesus”

On Transfiguration Sunday (Feb 15), I gave an encouragement: what can we surrender in order to allow us more time to listen to Jesus. After admitting to all of you that morning that I thought about my own encouragement and failed, I gave it another try. My own surrender of social media has been on track (I write this on Feb 17, so it has been on track for all of forty-eight hours). I hope that you will sincerely consider what you might want to surrender in the hopes of obtaining more time to listen to Jesus.

In that sermon (which you can watch or re-watch if you want), I gave three examples of what we can give up: news programs, social media, and commentators of all sorts. Of course, your own personal time destroyer might not be on my list. It will take some personal reflection to understand what you should surrender. However, if you are completely stuck, ask your family. I am sure that they will easily know where you use the majority of your time.

The giving up is only half of the equation. I am encouraging you to give up a thing so that you have more time for Jesus: time for reading the Bible, time for prayer, time for talking about Jesus with family, friends, coffee-drinkers, or whoever else you might see. While you may find this initially challenging (remember my earlier failure), I suspect that this is a habit you want to continue indefinitely. Only time and the work of Jesus will tell.

In the absence of my social media consumption, I have noticed more time and attention for my wife and children. I am more aware of them and more actively present with them. Instead of my screen occupying my eye and brain power, I have more energy to engage with them. This was an unintentional benefit but one that I hope to continue.

I plan to devote my April article to another summary of how “listening to Jesus” has gone for me. I share this with you hoping that you will be encouraged by a fellow Christian. While my professional time with Jesus is higher than the average Christian, my personal time with him is what I am hoping to change for the better. I hope, too, that you are willing to lose your own time destroyer for the sake of getting closer to Jesus. I pray for both of your listening over the coming month. Talk to you then.

*Pastor Sam*



*We have  
waited for him,  
so that he might  
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

## TAKE A DEEP BREATH

*“Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7*

From the moment we take our first breath we are alive! It is an amazing gift, this thing called life. We have done nothing to earn it, and yet when we are born God breathes life into us. Each one of us becomes a living creature, part of the human family. Life! A miraculous mystery. Man cannot survive without air.

*Each breath is borrowed air, not ours to keep and own,  
and all our breaths as one declare what wisdom long has known:  
To live is to receive and answer back with praise  
to what our minds cannot conceive: The source of all our days.*

Breathing is very important in vocal music. To produce a tone, one must breathe and support that sound with air. A good, deep breath, expanding the diaphragm, is needed to produce a quality tone and sustain a phrase -- a musical sentence. A shallow chest breath will result in a thin, unsupported tone, and will not help carry the “sentence” -- hence, forcing the vocalist to take a breath mid-phrase. Our choir members would probably like a dollar for every time I’ve said, “Breathe!!”

*The sea flows in our veins. The dust of stars is spun  
to form the coiled, encoded skeins by which our cells are run.  
To live is to receive and answer back with praise  
to what our minds cannot conceive: the source of all our days.*

By the same token, wind instruments also require good breathing, air flow and support to generate quality sound. The type of breath one takes will result in a nice full round tone, or a weak sound. Good breathing helps to sing or play in tune. It signals confidence.

Continued on page 4

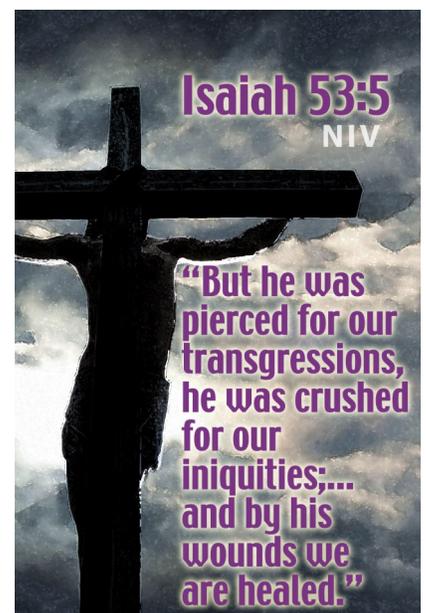
## TAKE A DEEP BREATH continued

*From earth and sea and dust arise yet greater things,  
The wonders born of love and trust, a grateful heart that sings:  
To live is to receive and answer back with praise  
to what our minds cannot conceive: the source of all our days.*

When we open our hymnals on Sunday morning, or follow along on the screen, listen to the organist introduce the hymn. Focus on the text. Think about singing as an integral part of the worship experience -- God-centered, people-centered, choir, congregation. Shoulders down! Lift your ribcage! Breathe! The first breath everyone takes together is a breath filled with focus, intention, and unified for the reason of lifting our voices toward heaven to praise our Savior and King. Music speaks!

*And when our death draws near and tries to dim our song,  
our parting prayers will make it clear to whom we still belong.  
To live is to receive and answer back with praise  
to what our minds cannot conceive: the source of all our days.*

Karen Lindbloom



Do Good!

# FOOD DRIVE



# Help Local Families

**During the month of March, Faith Lutheran will collect items for the Food Pantry. A handy shopping list can be found on the donation tables in the Narthex.**

### Current Highest Needs

- Cooking oil & spray
- Ketchup
- Mayo
- Mustard
- Pasta (dry)
- Sugar

### Cleaning supplies

- Deodorant
- Dish soap
- Facial tissue
- Garbage bags
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

### Ongoing Food Needs (NO GLASS JARS)

- Beef stew & chili
- Cereal & instant oatmeal
- Flour
- Fruits & vegetables
- Hamburger & tuna helpers
- Jelly (plastic bottles)
- Milk (shelf-stable)
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Pasta & rice sides
- Pasta meals in cans
- Saltine crackers
- Soups & ramen noodles
- Spaghetti sauce
- Tomatoes (cans)
- Tuna, chicken & Spam

### Other Ongoing Needs

- Baby body wash
- Baby shampoo
- Body wash
- Detergent
- Dryer sheets
- Feminine hygiene products
- Lotion
- Shampoo & conditioner

**During the month of March: Tables will be set up in the Narthex for donations of nonperishable food items, paper products, and hygiene items.**



## FINANCIAL DONATIONS WELCOME!

- Checks payable to PARS (*Pierre Area Referral Service*); leave in the church office or place in the offering plate. Write Townsend Challenge on the memo line.
- From March 1 to April 30, for donations made to the Ardis Townsend Challenge for the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Food Pantry - local financial institutions will provide matching funds.



# THIS AND THAT

## FOREVER



## YOUNG

Our Forever Young potluck this month will be **Wednesday, March 18**. We will have a regular potluck luncheon after our morning Lenten service. Beverage will be provided. Bring a dish to share and a friend.



## LENTEN MEALS

Our Boards are serving a Wednesday meal during Lent. They will be hosting Lenten meals from 5:15-6:30 pm before

## Midweek and the Lenten services.

- March 4 Bd. of Stew/Endow
- March 11 Bd. of Education
- March 18 Bd. of Prop. Mgt.
- March 26 Bd. of Early Ed.

## Palm Cross Assembly



If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go much quicker. It is a fun time of fellowship for the many who come each year.

There will be some veteran folders on hand to help show everyone how to fold the crosses. Please bring a pair of scissors with you.

**We will be in the gym this year.**

## Official Acts



### Baptisms

### Funerals

Clinton Schimkat 2/9/26

## March 17



## Attention Thrivent Members

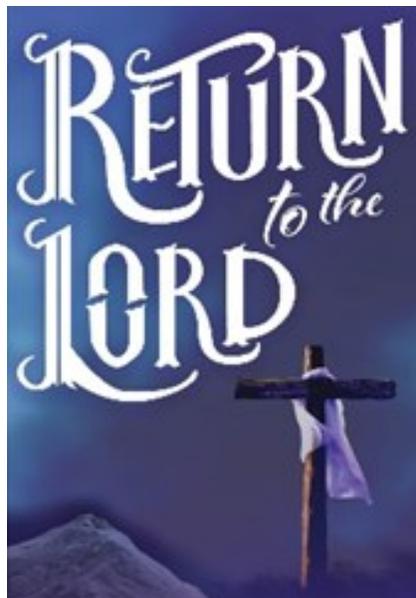
Please direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Faith Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Preschool or Faith Lutheran Daycare before they expire on **March 31, 2024**.

It is simple and doesn't cost you anything but your time.

There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and in the "Get Started" section click

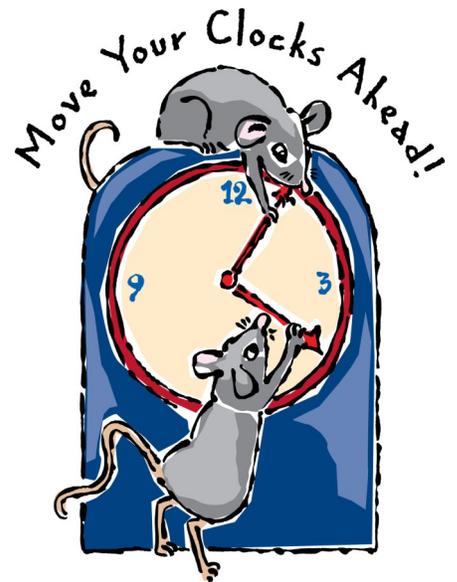
Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at automation.

**YOU MUST RENEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. YOUR CHOICE OF A PRIOR YEAR DOES NOT CARRY OVER.**



## Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Set Your Clocks Ahead One Hour Saturday night,**



**March 7 or You Will Be Late for Church on Sunday, March 8.**





## Men's Fellowship

Our Men's Fellowship is Monday, March 2 at 7:00 PM.

Come enjoy a fun evening of darts. We will be honing our skills for the Dartball tournament.

Bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.



A state-wide dartball tournament is being organized for March 7 at Faith, Sioux Falls. The tournament will begin at 10:30 a.m. To register a team or for more info, please call Adam Schulz at 605-999-2403 or email [adamschulz05@gmail.com](mailto:adamschulz05@gmail.com).



## 8th Annual Mexico Mission Trip in May

We are planning our seventh mission trip to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX. The focus of the trip will be to build a home for a family in Juarez and share the Gospel. The week-long trip will include various mission activities, including handing out Bibles and blessing the people with the Good News of Jesus in a region filled with poverty.

We ask that you keep this trip in your prayers regarding those who are on the team as well as those whom God appoints to place in our paths. Also be watching for fund raising opportunities for you to help with financially. If you want to know more, please contact **Dennis Ryckman** (222-7713) or the Church office (224-2216). The trip will be one week long starting May 22-May 31.

### Mexico Mission Trip Rent-A-Worker

Our team is ready to help with your projects. In the past they have painted, cleaned drain spouts, removed rocks from ditches, built projects, raked leaves, tilled gardens, power raked yards, removed snow. Let them know what you have in mind and they will get you on the schedule. They have an energetic crew and are looking forward to serving you and the community, their neighbors.



Please contact Carolyn Ryckman (605-280-6347) or the Church office (605-224-2216).

## Passover Seder Meal



March 30, 2026  
6:00 pm

**Our Passover Meal** will take place on the Monday of Holy Week, March 30 at 6:00 p.m. We limit the participation to 70 people. While middle school and youth are also encouraged to attend, they must have a parent attend with them. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table in the Narthex.

Sign up today.



## February LWML Mission Project

This year LWML and the congregation collected cake mixes, cans of frosting, cans of soda, birthday cards and candles, sprinkles, candy lettering, and balloons to make into birthday cake kits. There were two options of assembling kits at home or donating items to be made into kits. Items were collected throughout the month of January and assembled into kits on February 9<sup>th</sup> at our workday.

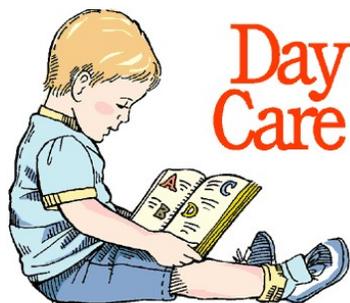
We were able to provide 122 birthday cake kits for our local community! Kits were distributed to PARS, Missouri Shores Domestic Violence Center, Southeast Community Center, Govs Grocery and Buffs Closet school programs. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the kits! Your continued kindness and generosity in supporting our endeavors is much appreciated!



Our assembly crew: Luann Zuercher, Cindy Canode, Doreen Miller, Renee Knapp, Janice Deal, Doreen Kayser, Anita Marso, Sandy Bales, Jan Larson, Loretta Jochim, and Cindy Fiechtner. Not Pictured: Donna Gohl, Kathleen Monfore, and Kristy Deal.

*Do Good!*

## Faith Lutheran Daycare



February was a great month, children and staff have been somewhat healthy. We did have to close one day due to Influenza cases in teachers and not being able to stay within state ratio. We are excited to have enough staff to be able to expand our baby room. We are thankful to the Lord for sending them our way. We are hoping to expand our preschool

room this summer, if you know of any children 3-5 years of age, we would love to have them join our team.

In March we will be hosting a Butter Braid fundraiser. The money will be used to give staff a little bonus for and all their hard work. We love to make them feel appreciated and know that the hard work does not go unseen so, maybe we will cater in a lunch or two.

To the ladies of the congregation, if you need something to do this winter and love to sew, we have a project for you! We are in need of baby bibs. We think the ones we have were made by you as well. We have an example of the one we like at the

kiosk table if you want take a look at it. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Kim or Mandy, they are more than happy to answer them. Gardening is also coming up and we are always looking for seeds of any kind to plant and watch nature do its thing.

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

God Bless!

Mandy Vogel/  
Kim Jensen



## Faith Lutheran Preschool

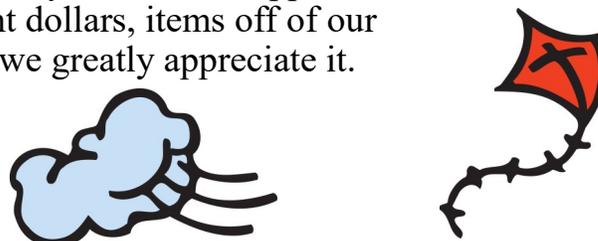
Wow, hard to believe we are already going into March. February, we learned about Jesus' love for us, and all the different ways he shows it. We also exchanged valentines and had a little party. We will be wrapping up the end of February with our preschool assessments and getting ready for conferences with parents for our Kindergarten readiness class.

In March we will be talking about how Jesus takes care of us, and leading up to Easter. Letters for the month are going to be D, J, E, and U. We will be working on number 20 and then reviewing 1-20. We will also be celebrating Dr. Suess week.

Registration for next year is now open, you may grab a registration form from the narthex or we have them on the preschool website. Please return this form with the non-refundable registration fee (\$50) if you are interested in enrolling your child for the fall of 2026.

I would like to thank each and every one of you that has supported us in the school year, weather it was donation of Thrivent dollars, items off of our amazon wish list or a prayer to the class room, we greatly appreciate it.

Blessings to you all,  
Kelsey Kampfe  
Faith Lutheran Preschool Teacher/Director



## Bible Bowl 2026

We received word from the South Dakota LCMS district on the 2026 Bible Bowl.

**2026 Bible Bowl Topic:** The Life of David, I Samuel 16 - I Kings 2, Psalm 51, and Luther's Small Catechism: Confession.

The competition features pool play in the morning, an individual exam just before lunch, and placing rounds in the afternoon.

Students from sixth grade to seniors are eligible to participate. The statewide competition is before Palm Sunday. **The Bible Bowl is set for March 21, 2026.** Registration can be done via mail or email. If by email, please send a digital copy of the form or type out the information in an email to [revmring@gmail.com](mailto:revmring@gmail.com).



**Camp Minneboji** Camp Minneboji is held every year at Camp Okoboji in NW Iowa. The summer camp, for kids in grades 4-9, features Bible study, mission presentations, music, crafts, sports, recreation, a camp T-shirt and the chance to meet new Christian friends. Camp registration and fee are required to attend. Camp week is June 21 – June 27, 2026. This year's camp theme is "Lifted Up". The Camp registration fee is \$465 for the week. The Honor's Camp registration is \$495 for the week. The registration deadline is May 1.

Please download the Camp Booklet for registration materials and details and to find all of the information you will need to have a great summer camp experience. Check out the Camp Minneboji website for more details.

Please let Pastor Sam or the church office know if you are planning to attend as the church will have scholarships to help with financing this trip.

### Circuit Bible Camp

Detail to come later when they are available. We will put notices in the bulletin.

