

# Voice of Faith

February 2018

**Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA  
1245 North Second  
Seward, NE 68434**

(402)643-6116

office@faithseward.org

Web site: [www.faithseward.org](http://www.faithseward.org)

 Facebook: Faith Lutheran  
Church, Seward, NE

**Worship Sundays at 9:15 am  
Sunday School 10:45 am**



# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 1pm Congo Life Meeting	2	3
4 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages SOUPER BOWL OF CAR-ING	5	6	7 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers 6:30pm-Choir 7:00pm - Confirma-tion	8	9 11:45 am FLC Local Lunch at RO's	10
11 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages <b>God's Work, Our Hands</b> 10:45am - 3rd Year Confirmation 6:00pm Youth Mystery	12	13 7-9pm Council Meeting	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers 5:30pm-Faithful Choir <b>6pm Potato Bake</b> <b>7pm Worship</b> 	15	16 6pm Game and Pizza Night	17
18 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages	19	20 WIC Clinic Day	21 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers 1-5:30pm FLC Blood Drive 5:30 -Faithful Choir 6pm - Lenten Dinner 6:30 - Discussion 7:15 - Holden Svc	22	23	24
25 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages 10:45am - 3rd Year Confirmation	26	27	28 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers 5:30 -Faithful Choir 6pm - Lenten Dinner 6:30 - Discussion 7:15 - Holden Even-ing Prayer Service			AA meets weekly at Faith Lutheran on Sundays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 7:30pm



# The Voice of Faith

A couple of weeks ago, members of Faith Lutheran Church and several other congregations in Seward got together to worship, together! It is an annual event on a Thursday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25 every year.

Every year we use a worship service that is made available so that people all over the world can worship together by using the same liturgy. This is just another way of intentionally engaging in unity with the Body of Christ. Each year the order of worship is written by churches from different parts of the world, giving it a different global flavor each year. I appreciate everyone who came and worshiped, but I would like to quote from parts of the service, both as a reminder for those who were there and as valuable perspective for those who were not.

“The resources for this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the churches of the Caribbean. The history of Christianity in that region contains a paradox. On one hand, the Bible was used by colonizers as justification for the subjugation of the original inhabitants of these lands, and on the other hand, the Bible became a source of consolation and liberation for many who suffered at the hands of the colonizers.

Today, the Bible continues to be a source of consolation and liberation, inspiring the Christian community to address the conditions that currently undermine human dignity and quality of life. As the iron chains of enslavement fall from our hands, a new human bond of love and communion emerges in the human family, expressing the unity prayed for by our Christian communities.”

Where we would normally have what we call “The Prayer of the Day,” this service

had “Prayers of Reconciliation” using the “Kyrie” (“Kyrie eleison,” which means “Lord have mercy”) as a response:

“Let us call upon the mercy of God, confident in the saving power of God’s Right Hand.

From structures that undermine human dignity and enforce new forms of enslavement, deliver us, O God. **Kyrie eleison.**

From decision and deeds that impose poverty, marginalization or discrimination on our brothers and sisters, deliver us, O God. **Kyrie eleison.**

From the fear and suspicion that separate us from each other and place limits on hope and healing, deliver us, O God. **Kyrie eleison.**

The Lord is our strength and our might, and has become our salvation. May God, who has redeemed us, lead us into the abode of holiness. **Amen.**”

The “Prayers of the People” included the following:

“God of love, you created us in your image and have redeemed us in Christ. Empower us to love our neighbor and to welcome the stranger.

God of peace, you remain faithful to your covenant with us even when we wander from you, and in Christ you have reconciled us to yourself. Put a new spirit and a new heart within us, that we may reject violence, and instead be servants of your peace.

God, One in Three Persons, in Christ you have made us one with you and with one another. By the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit, free us from the self-centeredness, arrogance, and fear that prevents us from striving towards the full visible unity of your Church.”

The “Sending” was called a “Commissioning,” and was:

“L: Redeemed by the Right Hand of God, and united in the One Body of Christ, let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Congregational Corner

Did you know that this is Faith Lutheran's 25<sup>th</sup> year of participating in the "Souper Bowl of Caring." On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, our church will be united with thousands of other congregations in the fight against hunger. The Souper Bowl of Caring began in South Carolina with this simple prayer: "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl Game, help us be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."



**So, how can you help?** On January 28 through February 11, you are invited to bring cans of soup and cash donations to church. The soup will be given to FoodNet and the cash donations will go to the Blue Valley Food Pantry – two organizations that help in the fight against hunger. Please give generously! Let's make a **goal** of beating last year's stats **by 25% and collect 135 cans of soup and \$250.** (In 2017 we collected 108 cans of soup and \$199) Let's turn the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring!

**Don't sit on the sidelines in the fight against hunger!**

## Faith Blood Drive is Feb. 21, from 1 to 5:00 PM.

There will be snacks and beverages. Please invite others to donate too. Our goal is to increase our donor pool. Call Cindy at 402-643-3060 for appointments or schedule on line at [ncbb.org](http://ncbb.org).



## FEBRUARY GAME NIGHT

Friday, February 16th is FLC Family Game Night.

Carol is in charge, so please let her know if you would like Pizza with your games!



## Election Results:

**President Elect** - Joni R  
**Financial Secretary** - Pam G  
**Properties** - Sheila W  
**Congo Life** - Rachel P  
**Mission Outreach** - Vicki H, Jeff M  
**Parish Ed** - Natasha H  
**Endowment** - Jacob P  
**Synod Delegates** - Chris C

**God's Work Our Hands** day will be February 11. We will deliver our homemade Valentines to the local nursing homes. **Wear your yellow shirts!**

We will also be writing cards to our soldiers that can go along with the Girls Scout cookies we are gifting them through Hugs for soldiers:

[www.hugsforsoldiers.org/girl-scout-cookies](http://www.hugsforsoldiers.org/girl-scout-cookies)



**A: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because the Lord has anointed us to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Amen! Alleluia!"**

This assembly response used Isaiah 61:1-2 the same way Jesus used it in Luke 4:18-21, to claim his calling, and even the fulfilling of Isaiah's prophecy. This service really touched me because it was not just about the unity of Christians, but about the unity of humanity, which is what Jesus came to accomplish, by reconciling all people to himself, and thus to each other. What Jesus is called to do, the Body of Christ is called to do.

*Pastor Rob*



## DIRECT CHOICE DOLLARS

### Direct Choice Dollars

Coming soon! Updated 2018 Thrivent Choice information. Please check back for details.

Reminder: You will be able to direct 2017 Choice Dollars® until March 31, 2018.

## Youth Mystery Dinner

will be held on **February 11th at 6:00** and is a **Pajama Party!**

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids and can be purchased from the youth group at church on January 28th and February 4th.



### SAVE THE DATE: March 9th 2018

From 5:30 - 8:30pm at St Thomas Lutheran Church in Omaha. Dinner, Silent Auction, Music and the history of Table Grace Ministries.

## TABLE GRACE CAFÉ

Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls

**HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT?** There are many children in Nebraska everyday who need a safe place to live. Please consider providing a foster home for children in your community.

**Classes starting in Seward on March 12 at St John Lutheran Church from 6-9pm.**

Better Living Counseling Services  
7100 S 29th Street  
Lincoln NE 68516  
Betterlivingcounselinginc.com

**SCARLET THREADS:** is a spinoff 'shop' from Foster Friends opening soon in Milford at East Fairview Mennonite Church. Everyone is invited to the **Open House February 11th from 2-4pm**. Scarlett Threads is a shop where teens can go to choose their own clothes with no cost to them. East Fairview is located at 508 280th, Milford.

*She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.*

*When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.*

**Proverbs 31:20-21**



# Sharing God's Bounty ~ February

## Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.



Our relationship to the Lord is similar. God, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me’ ”* (Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love, our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *“love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to . . .

*“Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart”* (Deuteronomy 15:10).

*“Carefully observe [his decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul”* (Deuteronomy 26:16).

*“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality”* (Romans 12:13).

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men”* (Colossians 3:23).

© Copyright Parish Publishing, LLC | May not be copied without permission. [www.parishpublishing.org](http://www.parishpublishing.org)

---

**Getting to Know You...** A new feature of Faith's Monthly Newsletter. We would like to get to know our newest members first and then move on to our more “long-term” members (who will be chosen at random). This month we are featuring Mick and Linda C.

We moved to Seward last March after 44 years in Hartington, NE, which was Mick's hometown. I grew up in Lincoln. We moved to Seward to be closer to family. We have 1 son and family that lives here in Seward and the other son and family lives in Lincoln. This includes 5 grandchildren that we have spent a lot of time and driven many miles over the years to be a part of their lives. My parents along with our siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and nieces also live in and around Lincoln.

Mick is still working for RaDec Construction Company and has completed 1 of 5 phases of remodel at the Midwest Covenant Home in Stromsburg. RaDec is a commercial builder that he has been a partner in for 44 years. He doesn't want to retire yet.

I, on the other hand am enjoying retirement. The last 20 years I have worked as a Physical Therapist Assistant in the nursing homes in and around Hartington. I always had to worry about traveling in bad weather and am enjoying staying home when roads are bad.

Mick has enjoyed many years of successful deer hunting but now spends more time setting up stands so our son and family can enjoy it. I enjoy being a grandma as much and as often as I can, along with quilting, crocheting, golfing, bowling and working on my house.

Our favorite place to vacation is in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We have been fortunate to have a friend with a cabin near Hill City and try to get up there at least one or two times a years usually with some of our close friends.

We are very thankful for our new home here in Seward and that we are closer to family. We're also thankful for our new church family that has been so welcoming.



Linda and Mick C

# 2018 Lenten Services

## Ash Wednesday, February 14

6:00 Potato Bake - Thrivent sponsored  
7:00 Worship Service

## Wednesday, February 21

5:30 Choir Practice  
6:00 Dinner - (Mission Outreach)  
6:30 Lenten Discussion  
7:15 Holden Evening Prayer

## Wednesday, February 28

5:30 Choir Practice  
6:00 Dinner - (Parish Ed)  
6:30 Lenten Discussion  
7:15 Holden Evening Prayer

## Wednesday, March 7

6:00 Dinner - (Properties)  
6:30 Lenten Discussion  
7:15 Holden Evening Prayer

## Wednesday, March 14

5:30 Choir Practice  
6:00 Dinner - (Congo Life)  
6:30 Lenten Discussion  
7:15 Holden Evening Prayer

## Wednesday, March 21

5:30 Choir Practice  
6:00 Dinner - German Meal (Men of Faith)  
6:30 Lenten Discussion  
7:15 Holden Evening Prayer

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

### Palm Sunday, March 25

9:15am-Worship Service

### Maunder Thursday, March 29

Worship 7:00pm

### Good Friday, March 30

Worship-7:00pm

### Easter Sunday, April 1

8:00am-Easter Breakfast

9:15am-Worship Service,  
with Holy Communion

The **Faithful Piecemakers** are planning to continue our involvement in Quilts of Valor by creating more quilts to honor our veterans. If you have someone you would like to nominate who you feel should be honored, please complete this form. Please check with them to see if they have previously received a quilt. Nominations will be reviewed and selections made by the Piecemakers.

Please give your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give the name of the veteran you would like to honor: \_\_\_\_\_

The Veteran's address and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know the veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Please give some supporting information regarding this veteran's service and why you are nominating them:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submit nomination for 2018 by April 15th. Place in Jeanette R church mailbox or personally deliver to her.

## Thank you for giving your time, talents and treasures to.....

\*All the Boards and Committees for their reports in the “We are Lutheran” Annual Report. Please take time to read the 33 pages about *all the good things* that went on in 2017. Also, be sure to read the articles on the inside of the cover, plus the message on the back from Bishop Brian Maas.

\*Everyone who helped take down the Christmas decorations. It was “all hands on deck” & the job was done in no time!

\*Kathy M, Chris C & Helen H for leading the “Lessons and Carols” worship service on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

\*Nolan W & Levi B for leading the worship service on Jan. 14, plus Kathy M for the children’s message and the sermon. A skit about Samuel and Eli was presented by Nolan (God), Levi (Eli) and Audrey (Samuel). It reminds us all that, if the Lord is calling us, we should say “Yes, Lord, your servant is listening!”

\*Justin McC, Drew W and her friend, plus adult sponsors April W & Pastor Rob for attending the Nebraska Synod’s Middle School Gathering (for grades 6-8) in Omaha on Jan. 13 & 14. The theme was “Go” from the “Great Commission” in Matthew 28. But it was also about learning to be a disciple. April said she appreciated the focus that was placed on service. The kids made tie blankets, hygiene kits and packed backpacks with food. They also learned about the needs of other communities and what other congregations were doing to meet those needs. Drew said, “It was fun meeting new people, making tie blankets, and I can’t wait until next year!”

\*Chris C and Paul N for singing in the combined choir at the Christian Unity Service at the Methodist Church on Jan. 18. We also thank Jeanette R. and Kathy M. for providing cookies for the fellowship time after the service.

\*Our Sunday School kids for making lots of Valentine’s for “God’s Work, Our Hands Day” on Jan. 21. They will be delivered to the nursing homes in February and you can bet the folks there will LOVE them!

\*Our Faithful Choir singing the beautiful song “Lord, Today” and Kurt’s Krew for leading the worship music, plus singing an offering song on Jan. 21.

\*Don and Pam R for displaying a year’s worth of pictures on the bulletin board in the narthex. Great memories of 2017! And a belated thank you to John W for his picture display of the eclipse.

\*Everyone who donated to the Food Pantry in January, bringing in 77 cans of meat, along with five cartons of soup & three boxes of pancake mix. Thank you very much!

\*The eight choir members singing a special offertory song on Jan 28: Jeff M, Tom H, Ron W, Nolan W, Jeane H, Pam R, and Chris C, accompanied by Maralee M.

\*Faith members and friends for having a table at the St. John Trivia Night: Kyle and Allison J, Hillary K, Pastor Rob and Chris , April W and her two friends. A fun time was had by all!

\*Paul and JoAnn H & Doyle and Pam G for the *great idea* to have an auction to raise funds for the NYG.

\*The many hearts and hands that keep our congregation moving smoothly throughout the year! We couldn’t do it without you!



# January at Faith:



GWOH - The Kids made Valentines

Youth Led Worship Service



The Markle's  
Commissioning  
Haiti Mission Trip



The Faith Trivia Team



Beautiful Music



Well-Run Annual Congregational Meeting