

Voice of Faith

March 2018

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

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Web site: www.faithseward.org

 Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church, Seward, NE

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



2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS









YOUTH MYSTERY DINNER HOSTS



CADE'S BAPTISM

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday Lenten Service Schedule: 5:30 Choir Practice 6:00 Lenten Meal 6:30 Lenten Discussion in Fellowship Hall 7:15 Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary	AA meets weekly at Faith Lutheran on Sundays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 7:30pm			1	2	3
4 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages	5	6	7 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers Lenten Service Schedule	8 1pm Congo Life Meeting	9 11:45am-Seward Local Lunch at Concordia	10
11 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages 10:45am - 3rd Year Confirmation	12	13 7pm - FLC Council Meeting	14 Noon - Faith hosts Lunch at Lent 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers Lenten Service Schedule	15	16 6pm Game and Pizza Night	17 8-10am - Faith staffs the Recycling Center 
18 9:15am-Worship 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages God's Work, Our Hands EASTER EGG HUNT 	19	20 Newsletter items due WIC Clinic Day	21 1pm-5pm-Faithful Piecemakers Lenten Service Schedule	22	23	24
25 9:15am-Worship PALM SUNDAY 10:45am-Sunday School for all ages 10:45am - 3rd Year Confirmation 	26	27	28 1-5pm Faithful Piecemakers	29 7pm - Maundy Thursday Worship 	30 7pm - Good Friday Worship 	31 7pm - Easter Vigil Prayer Service 



The Voice of Faith

March 2018

Inviting Grace

"...All come from dust, and to dust all return."

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Our Synod's publishing house is releasing a weekly family devotion for lent, this year. The first devotion came out on Ash Wednesday, but I think it is a good thought for all of Lent. Because it is a family devotion, it is meant to be used multigenerationally, and includes activities for families with children. Enjoy!

Pastor Rob

Dust is everywhere—dust bunnies hide under beds, dust balls collect in corners, fine particles float in the air, and a dirty film coats every undisturbed surface in our homes. Dust invades even unreachable spots, like under the refrigerator and behind furniture. We can't hide from dust!

Today is Ash Wednesday, the day we are reminded that humankind is made from dust and that, one day, our bodies will turn back into dust again. Ash Wednesday kicks off the church season of Lent, the 40 days Christians get ready for Easter. Some people celebrate the day with a smear of dust on their foreheads in the shape of a cross.

There is no right or wrong way to get ready for Easter. Some Christians use the days leading to Easter as a time to become closer friends with Jesus. Some try to remove unhealthy or meaningless habits from their lives during these days. Instead of using time to eat chocolate or watch internet videos, they focus on God. Some Christians use Lent to *add* activities to their schedules to allow them to share more time with God: they may spend more time in prayer, enjoy regular quiet time to read God's word, or volunteer to help people in their neighborhood.

The cross is a symbol of our faith. Wherever you see it, think of it as an invitation from your friend, Jesus. Jesus invites us to follow and live like him, notice his love in action in the world, and welcome God's love and grace into our lives. Like a party invitation, the cross invites us to spend more time with Jesus, learn more about his life, and ask him more questions. The cross reminds us that we can't hide from God's love!

Take on the household task of dusting as you discuss these questions. Before you get out the cleaning rags and feather dusters, seek out dusty spots and draw crosses with your fingers.

- What is Jesus inviting you to do to get ready for Easter?
- What questions do you have about God?
- What questions do you want to ask God?

Sprinkle a handful of flour on a baking tray and draw in the dust. Notice the natural instinct to create in the dust, just like our Creator God. Point out how easily the dust spreads, like God's love. From dust you have come and to dust you shall return!

With a dry-erase marker, mark each mirror in your home, vehicle and bags with a cross. Each time you draw a cross, remind yourself, "God loves me!" Each time you see one of these crosses during this Lent, imagine it as your personal invitation to spend more time with God.

Congregational Corner

From Parish Ed

The **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **March 18!** It's also a God's Work Our Hands day full of Easter activities.



Camp Carol Joy Holling-Brochures and scholarship applications are available in the Narthex. All are welcome to apply for scholarships.

Lois A Dietsch



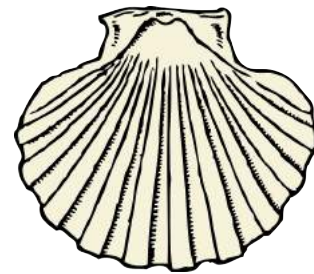
September 28, 1952 - February 14, 2018

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Lois. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of saints in light.
Amen.

Congratulations on the Baptism of:

Cade

Infant son of
Luke and Maggie
Baby Brother of Clara
Baptized:
February 18, 2018



CONGRATULATIONS!

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other nonprofits just like yours through Thrivent Choice®. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year.

We are excited to share, based on member recommendations, Faith Lutheran Church received \$1,668 in charitable outreach funding in 2017. We hope this gift helped to further support your incredible work.

All 2017 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. Encourage your supporters to direct now. Use the free promotional materials available in the Promote Thrivent Choice section on Thrivent.com to easily remind your supporters about Thrivent Choice and the positive impact that can be made by directing Choice Dollars to your organization. As a reminder, 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2018.

Sharing God's Bounty ~ March

“A young man dressed in a white robe . . . said, ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter . . .’” (Mark 16:5-7).

“Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid” (Mark 16:8).



Who wouldn't tremble and be afraid! You go to anoint a body to prepare it for a proper burial, but the body is missing. Then some ethereal creature tells you the body isn't there because it is no longer dead but alive. Who could take it in? *“Don't be alarmed”* the man in white said. Yeah, right!

Yet, looking back, perhaps the women remembered the thousands he had fed with only two fish and five loaves of bread (Matthew 14:15-21). Maybe they thought again about the raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44). After all, he was the one who had stilled the raging sea (Mark 4:35-41).

Somewhere, sometime, that trembling and bewilderment turned to joy and faith, for they did go tell his disciples and Peter (Matthew 28:8). And Jesus met them and greeted them, and they worshipped him. *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers . . .’”* (Matthew 28:9-10).

Jesus' last command is the same as this one: Don't be afraid. Go and tell. We can understand the fear of the women at the empty tomb. What are we afraid of? Trouble? Or hardship? Persecution? Or famine? Nakedness? Or danger? Or sword? There is no fear in these things! *“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”* (Romans 8:35, 37). We have the benefit of history. The women at the tomb couldn't fathom the outcome, but we have God's Word that assures us of our victory in Christ. We have his promise, *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age”* (Matthew 28:20). So don't be afraid! Go and tell!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! **Alleluia!**

Ask yourself: Do you ever find time for the work of God? There is a wide choice of things which you can do for God and neighbor, in and through your church community - if you have the good will. With goodwill you also will find the necessary time for such projects, even though you may have to cut and pare in other directions.

2018 Lenten Services

Wednesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 14

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

Wednesday, March 21

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 25

9:15am-Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Worship 7:00pm

Good Friday, March 30

Worship-7:00pm

Easter Vigil, March 31

Worship 7:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:00am-Easter Breakfast



Opportunity to Worship at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in April

If you are at least 19 years old, you can go and worship with me and the men on either Saturday, April 14th or Saturday, April 28th.

If you are interested, you must complete a security form and turn it into me by March 18th. Indicate which date you want to go. I am taking students on both dates. We leave by 6 p.m. and we will return by 9:30 p.m.

Security forms and a sign up will be on the table in the narthex. Completed forms may be put in my mailbox.

Please ask if you have questions or want a security form. thank you, Kathy



YOU'RE INVITED TO

THE *Heart* OF *camp* GALA

A Benefit Event for Carol Joy Holling Camp

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018

5:00 p.m. • Fellowship & Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. • Dinner & Live Auction

La Vista Conference Center
12520 Westport Parkway, La Vista, NE 68128

**Learn more and register
at CarolJoyHolling.org/Gala**

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

*Our new Council members – thank you for your willingness to serve our church and our Lord! *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10.* **President Elect** – Joni , **Financial Secretary** – Pam , **Properties** – Sheila , **Congregational Life** – Rachel, **Mission Outreach** – Vicki and Jeff , **Parish Ed.** – Natasha , **Endowment** – Jacob . Non-Council positions: **Memorial Committee** – Linda , **Synod Delegate** – Chris .

*Our out-going Council members: **President** – Mike, **Mission Outreach** – Rosie & Joni, **Parish Ed.** – Kelli, **Property** – John, and **Memorial Committee** – Vicki. Thank you for giving your time and talents to these important church leadership roles!

*The Audit Committee – Jim, Peg, and John. We appreciate your work!

*Our Sunday School kids for delivering their homemade Valentines to the nursing homes. What a fun way to show love to our older neighbors! It’s nice that our children know that they too can make a difference in someone’s life.

*Our 25th annual “Souper Bowl of Caring.” We collected **166 cans of soup** for the FoodNet and raised **\$254** for the Food Pantry. (We scored a touchdown over last year’s totals of 108 cans of soup and \$199.) Thanks for giving generously & making a difference to those in need! Remember in Matthew 25:40, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.” The grand total for the last 25 years is now **2,660 cans of soup** and **\$5,176**. Thanks to Pam who has organized this event for the past 25 years!

*Kurt’s Krew, plus John and Miranda, who are Camp Counselors from Camp Carol Joy Holling, for playing lots of good camp songs for Camp Sunday on Feb. 11. We were also treated to the children’s choir singing “Father Abraham” and the Faithful Choir’s song “Let Us Exalt.”

*During Fellowship time on Feb. 11, John and Miranda from Camp told about all the programs and activities that are offered during summer camp in Ashland. A few of our youth also shared about the fun experiences they’ve had there. This year’s theme is “God’s Grace Changes Everything.” Pick up a Carol Joy Holling Camp booklet in the narthex and check out all the sessions that are available for your child/children. Scholarships are available through Faith Lutheran. Applications can be found in the lower mailbox kiosk and returned to any Parish Ed Board Member (Amber, Peg, or Natasha)

*Mission Outreach for designating their “Winter Year of Giving” to the Markles for their mission trip to Haiti in February, along with many donated items and over \$700 in cash from our congregation to purchase rice and beans for the Haitian people.

*Our youth and their fun “Pajama Party” Mystery Dinner on Feb. 11th. They served a mighty fine pancake breakfast! Thanks to our Godparents, Kyle and Allison, for their help in planning and organizing this fun event. The youth raised \$400 which will be donated to the ELCA Youth Gathering to help youth from Puerto Rico attend the NYG. Our youth take giving to others very seriously!

*Mike R who helped clean the church when the Werner’s were on vacation. Thanks Mike!

*Jeane for her piano solo during the offering time on Feb. 4th, playing “Just As I Am, without One Plea.”

*Our snow removal team for January and February – John and Paul. Good job, guys!

*Foster Friends and their new spinoff shop called “Scarlet Threads” where teens can go to choose their own clothes with no cost to them. It is located at East Fairview Mennonite Church in Milford.

Prayer Requests

Spencer – Brain tumor. Praise and thanks for the improvement in eyesight.

Bonnie & Dan -Bonnie has cancer (brother & sister-in-law of Robin)

Charlie – Cancer (Maralee's Cousin)

Duane – health concerns and in need of a kidney donation

Mindy – Undergoing cancer treatments (Friend of Kathy)

Baby Carson –Multiple Health concerns

Barb – Cancer Treatments (Don's sister)

Bob – Cancer Treatments

Bo – seizure disorder (toddler son of Beth's friends)

Bonnie – dealing with cancer (Friend of Linda)

Janet – Cancer Treatments and intestinal surgery (sister-in-law of Jim)

Amy – Cancer treatments (April's cousin)

Steve – newly diagnosed with cancer (family friend of April)

Mary Ann – recovering from back surgery (April's Aunt)

Louis – Health problems (cousin of Joyce)

Rita - Recently diagnosed with cancer (cousin of Joyce)

Pam – Broken leg (Kathy's sister)

Elizabeth – loss of husband and moving to assisted living (friend of Chris)

Huong – recovering from a stroke (friend of Chris)

† **Family of Marian Fosler** -

† **Family of Dr. Robert Fiala** -

† **Family of Butch Hansel** -

† **Family of Judy Manhas** -

† **Family of Lois Dietsch**

† **Family of Herman Mantley**

† **Family of Don Schoch**

† **Family of Harold Radford**

† **Family of Grace Ringdahl**

† **Family and friends of Christopher Webster**

Serving in the Military:

Ryan Lynch – Deployed to Afghanistan

Todd Mori - Deployed to Afghanistan

FUN AT THE YOUTH MYSTERY DINNER



BLOOD DRIVE AT FAITH - February 21, saw 36 donors and collected 30 units of blood. Thanks to all that came. The next drive is April 18 from 1PM to 5:30PM. I will be calling!! Cindy

Easter Flowers: The weather is making us think of spring and just around the corner, Easter will be here. If you would like to provide **Spring Flowers for Easter**, please bring them by Good Friday and put them in the kitchen. Any spring flower is welcome! So tulips, daffodils, Easter lilies, whatever you wish to bring. You may take them home after the Easter service, although we would like to keep a few Easter lilies for the Easter Sundays. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex, please add your name and donated in honor or in memory of. We are also looking for a group to decorate the sanctuary on the Saturday before Easter.

Thank you, from the Altar Guild



Essen und Trinken

Essen und Trinken is German for "food and drink".

Come join us as the Men of Faith will do the grilling and serving of our **March 21st** Lenten German Meal!

Our authentic German meal is being led by Eldeen. The menu is German bratwurst (from Kansas City), German potato salad (made by Eldeen), red cabbage & sauerkraut. For dessert, we'll have German gesundheit kuchen and apple kuchen (made by Eldeen and Chris).

For the kids and non-German eaters, we'll have hotdogs and chips.

After the Holden Prayer service, about 8PM, everyone's welcome to meet over at the Bottle Rocket for "Trinken"

Prizes for best German dress or something German will be awarded to the top 5 people! Three of the prizes will go to Eldeen, Chris and Pastor Rob in making the German food. Two more will be announced at 7PM on Wednesday, March 21st. These are "valuable" prizes. You can win more than one prize!

