

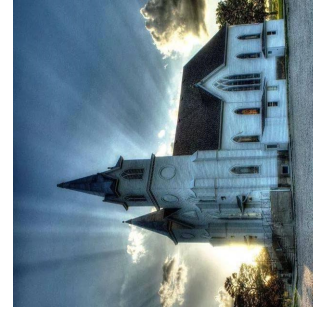
OUR MISSION:

To be a SOLDIER of the cross,
Serving **O**ur **L**ord **D**aily **I**n **E**very **R**espect

We would love having you worship with us!
Please come and hear our Vicar Brent Ashby.

Sundays 9:00 am
605-267-2277

Faith United Lutheran Church
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PO Box 168
Volin, SD 57072
(605) 267-2277
Faithunitedlutheran@gmail.com
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March Emmissary 2025

We are so thankful....

Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

Brent Ashby for serving as our worship leader

Brent Ashby for teaching confirmation students

For March janitorial work this month: Katie Hoffman

Karen Habeck for decorating the fellowship room every month.

Lois Steenhoven for music leadership

March Ushers & Greeters, Readers, Communion servers

March Altar Guild: Karen Habeck

NEW WORSHIP TIME IN MARCH

Beginning March 2, 2025 worship will be held at 9:00 am at Faith United Lutheran.

ELECTRONIC EMISSARY

If you wish to receive the Faith United Lutheran Church monthly emissary electronically, please email faithunited-lutheran@gmail.com and let me know!

I'll email your emissary to you each month instead of the paper copy in the mail.



Important Dates - Mark your calendars!

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

Joint worship at Faith United at 7:00 pm

Church Clean Up - Saturday, March 15th

9:00 am to noon

Please come and help out if you can!

March 4 - Bible Study at Vangen 6:30 pm

March 9 - Deacons Meeting 8:00 am

March 16 - Council Meeting 10:15 am

March 19 - WELCA - 9:00 am - noon

March 23 - Healing Service

Gift Cards

If you would like a gift card for groceries or school supplies, please contact the Church at 605-267-2277 or contact Brenda Hoxeng

We welcome articles from anyone who wishes to write one for the emissary. Articles are due to Brenda by the 20th of each month.

Romans 5:20

The Law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

Romans 6:1

The Law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

In our study of Romans, we have seen Paul make the case that all humanity is guilty before God. It is not just those special chosen folks that were given the revealed law code (10 Commandments) but all of humanity has that basic code written in the heart. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (3:23) We have also seen Paul convincingly argue that Christ's life, death and resurrection were accepted by God as the substitute for our crushing moral debt to that same moral code. Not only that, Paul has told us the amazing news that those in Christ are not merely forgiven but are guaranteed of a new humanity a new life that is connected to and modeled after Christ's deathless resurrected humanity. And it is all by grace – the free gift of God!

But that leaves many with the question: What then was the purpose of the Law in the first place? Why would God waste His time revealing that Law on Sinai, enacting a covenant with His people and insisting that they follow it, knowing all along they would fail, and then send Jesus to take care of the mess? I mean really, what was the point of all that belabored historical drama? Why didn't God just have Jesus spill His blood from the get-go and be done with the problem? So... Paul eggs us on by saying something controversial here in our first text: "The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase." What? Doesn't this seem like this would be the last thing a moralist like the apostle Paul would say? Wouldn't you have expected him to say that the Law was revealed to curb and cure sin? Well, Paul would have said that before Jesus knocked him off his horse on the Damascus road. But when Paul was blinded by the resurrected glory of Christ, he ceased being a moralist. He had come to realize that God's plan was always to rescue us from ourselves by Christ. God never ever has intended to reform us by the moral Law. Good as that law is, we can never achieve it. No, Paul tells us the primary reason the Law was given was to "increase sin." In other words, to magnify before us just who we really are – rebels against God.

Vicar Brent's Message



The truth is, it takes this kind of drama to convince us of just how bad our sin sickness is. Sin will actually blind us to the helplessness of our own condition. We need to try and fail, beating our head against the stone wall of the Law, until we are exhausted by our own attempts at perfection and see that we have only increased our errors. Then and only then will we be ready to sue for peace and beg for God's mercy. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." So says the Savior.

Paul launches another controversial question: "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?" This question can only be seriously entertained by the conniving mind gripped in sin. "Let's go ahead and live it up in sin if that will help increase grace." Uh, No! Failure to keep the Law does not mean it is useless to us. In fact, it has a secondary use in that it reveals how God would like us to live. And why wouldn't we want to live accordingly, to please Him who has loved us so well and redeemed us at such great cost to Himself? This is of course why we teach the 10 Commandments – not because they save us, but so that now we who are saved may gratefully know how to live.

Luther and the Reformers pointed to another use of the Law as well. When civil laws are modeled after the principles of God's moral code, the result is that sin is restrained in society, even in those who may not have redeemed hearts and minds. This is so for the simple reason that non-believers wish to avoid punishment even if they have no gratitude toward God. As believers, we should never be ashamed of working for and voting for laws that reflect God's ideals. They will not "save" society, but they will help make it more just. And they may even play a part in the revelation to the unbeliever of the need for salvation. How much better to follow the code of the One who created humanity than to try and make up the rules out of thin air! Now even the Law, which was our condemnation at one time, has become a blessing from God because of Christ's ongoing gift to us. Praise be to you, Oh Christ!

Vicar Brent



FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS...

As we enter the month of March we also enter the season of Lent which begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 5. Please join us for our worship service at 7 PM that day, a joint service with the Vangen congregation, this year to be held at Faith United. We mark the day with the Imposition of Ashes, in which ashes are used to make the sign of the cross on our foreheads with the reminder “you are ashes and to ashes you will return”. And then we are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion where we receive the bread and wine, Jesus’ body and blood, “given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.”

During the month of March Vicar Brent is planning **First Communion classes** for our three third graders to prepare them to receive their first Communion. Classes are currently planned for March 15 and March 22; he will continue to be in touch with the families involved regarding specifics.

Please note that a **healing service** will be included in worship on March 23. This is an opportunity to come forward for an individual prayer for healing for yourself or someone else. Even though we come forward publicly, the prayer is offered privately from you and our vicar to God.



Adult Bible study is resuming following a holiday and cold weather break. The topic for the new study is “Christ in the Old Testament”. This joint study with our friends at Vangen is held at 6:30 PM on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Vangen. Even if you were not involved in the initial meeting, anyone is welcome and encouraged to join the group.

A new **church brochure** summarizing who we are and some of the things we do as a congregation has been artistically designed by our secretary Brenda and is now available. Vicar Brent will make use of these brochures in his visits, and a supply of them will be available at the back of the church to share with visitors. Please also take copies to offer to anyone you know who is interested in our congregation or whom you invite to join in our worship or any of our activities.

Soon you will be seeing “**prayer pockets**” available at the back of the church. These are small double sided cloth squares with a cross inserted between the two sides to be used by anyone who wants something tangible to hold as they pray. Vicar Brent will have these available as he visits with people, and anyone is welcome to take them to use or share. Thank you to Lois Steenhoven for making them and to Melissa Steenhoven for donating the crosses. Prayer pockets were first introduced by our member Jean Ludwig who passed away in 2022. Jean was Lois’ mom and Melissa’s grandma.

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION...

WOW and confirmation classes are still held on Wednesday nights. Classes begin at 6:30 pm and end at 7:30 pm. Recently our average attendance is 8 students for WOW.

On Wednesday, February 12th all the students celebrated Valentine's Day. Everyone enjoyed making crafts, stories about God's love, Jesus's love, and how we love our neighbors.

Thank you to David and Dana Hoxeng for their donations for the supper. Supper included pizza, Valentine's cookies and hot cocoa with marshmallows.

We ended with prayers.

The children are still practicing their songs to be sung during worship Palm Sunday.

Hope everyone stays safe, warm and healthy.

A very special thank you to Ariel Pederson for working with the students during craft time. Awesome job.



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MARCH

March 2 - Last Sunday after Epiphany: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43a

March 9 - First Sunday in Lent: Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 16 - Second Sunday in Lent: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

March 23 - Third Sunday in Lent: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

As I gaze out my window I see snow. WOW, I guess winter is here, but spring is just around the corner.

Lent will be here soon and that is a time for us to contemplate about all that God has given us. Some choose to give something up, as a means to focus on what God gave up for us, His Son.

I have tried over the years to try to give up something that I enjoy, usually a food item, but seem to always fail in my endeavor. Am I that weak that I cannot go six weeks without something I enjoy? It would seem so.

Maybe it would be better if we just take a few minutes each day to think about Jesus' journey here on earth and what happened to him. We get caught up in our day-to-day activities and forget about the time of year it is.

We should also take this time, right before spring, to renew our spirits and lives because we know that it's going to get really busy and we will be focused on outside things that need to get done yesterday.

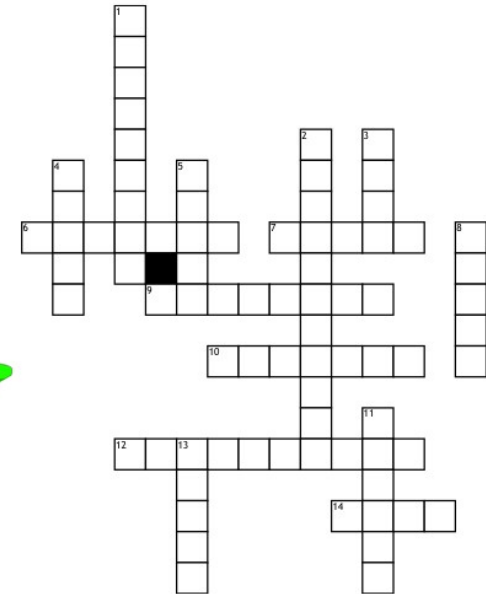
I challenge you to do some thinking about all that God has done for you and continues to do for you. Be sure to thank Him and know that He is always with us.

Shalom,
Lois



Kids Corner

Saint Patricks Day



Across

6. Saint Patrick was the patron saint of which country?

7. Saint Patrick banished this reptile from Ireland

9. A "fake" "Stone"

10. Stone that is good luck to kiss in Ireland

12. If you catch one, they have to give you all thier gold

14. The original color of Saint Patrick's Day

Down

1. Hope to find this at the end of a rainbow

2. Phrase that means "Ireland forever"

3. 4 leaf clover brings good

4. Month Saint Patrick's Day is in

5. If you dont wear green people can do this to you

8. You can be this nationality for a day on March 17th

11. Capitol of Ireland

13. Irish nickname for Patrick

Worship Schedule:

March 2 Worship, Holy Communion
 March 5 Ash Wednesday, Holy Communion
 March 9 Worship
 March 16 Worship, Holy Communion
 March 23 Worship
 March 30 Worship, Holy Communion



Ushers/Greeters:

Lay Readers:

March 2	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
March 9	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
March 16	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
March 23	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
March 30	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer

Altar Guild:

Karen Habeck

Janitor:

Katie Hoffman

Bread Bakers/Providers:

Brenda Hoxeng

Acolyte:

March 2 Cody Hoxeng
 March 9 Kensi Pederson
 March 16 Westin Mehlhaff
 March 23 Hailey Patterson
 March 30 Josh Hauck

Work Group

Chair - Butch & Lois Steenhoven
 267-2336

March 2 Kathleen Gorsett
 March 5 Lois Steenhoven
 March 16 David Hoxeng
 March 30 Nancy Steffen

Crystal Mensch
 Adam & Kelly Christ
 Trudy Jones
 Nancy Steffen
 Judy Brock



Philippians 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

If you or family/friends are in need of prayer and would like to be on our prayer chain please call:

Lois Steenhoven 605 267 2336

Extended Care Facility:
 Lynda Freng, Norma DeJong

Each month we pray for a random list of members from our congregation, not because they are sick or having problems, but to lift them up to God, give thanks for them and pray for their well-being. We pray for our members: Arlen Steenhoven; Butch & Lois Steenhoven; Nancy Steffen; Brad, Michelle, Dean & Kady Tronvold; Kayla Tronvold, Justice & Kwesi Koomson; Pam & Gary Truman.

Work Group for March

Military personnel and those serving stateside or overseas and their families:
 Ryan Habeck, Jeffery Heier, Kyle Huether, Derrick Mehlhaf and Trevor Habeck

We pray for our friends and family members with recent or chronic illnesses or who are recovering from surgery:
 Terry Altena (Karen Habeck), Autumn Silverstrom (Trudie Jones), Jonathon Green (Trudie Jones), Raymond Habeck (Bob Habeck), Ron & Janet Jentsch (Karen Habeck), Dave Julian, Lela Peters (Trudie Jones), Cregg Getman, LaVon Peak (Trudie Jones), Dan Brown, Brian Resch, Sharon Crissey (Nancy Steffen), Delores Loague, Doyle King, Stephanie Lovdokken, John Klein, Jordan Hussey (Elan Ashby).



OFFERING TOTALS

January 26	\$480
February 2	\$939
February 9	\$735
February 16	\$1,465



WINTER WEATHER NOTICE

If the weather is bad and Gayville-Volin School has been cancelled then there will be no confirmation or WOW.

IF YOU NEED HELP

River City Domestic Violence Center (605) 665-1448
24 Hour Crisis Line

Suicide and Crisis Hotline  988

Local Resources and Services Helpline  211

Thank you to our work group members for providing treats and hospitality following worship.

January / May / September

Chair - Kathleen Gorsett
267-2370
Carol Sarringar
Steve & Joan Anderson
Kristine Brock
Dana & Ariel Pederson

March / July / November

Chair - Butch & Lois Steenhoven
267-2336
Crystal Mensch
Adam & Kelly Christ
Trudy Jones
Nancy Steffen
Judy Brock

February / June / October

Chair - Bob & Karen Habeck
760-3218
Julie & Bryan Derby
Darlene Hoxeng
Brenda & Brian Hoxeng

April / August / December

Chair - Brad & Michelle Tronvold
665-3639
Gloria Snoozy
Dave & Anna Patterson
Kari Nelson
Deanna Huether
Bill & Robin Huether
Jack & Dana Huether


Please review, if you wish your name to be put on or taken off, please contact the chair for the group you are in, or leave a message on the church phone.





March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 Timothy 1:7</p> <p><i>For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.</i></p>						<p>1</p> <p>Dustin Dangel</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 9:00 am</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Bible Study at Vangen 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Joint worship at Faith United 7:00 pm</p> <p>Carol Sarringar</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Daniel Goeden</p>
<p>9 Daylight Savings Time </p> <p>Worship at 9:00 am</p> <p>Deacons Meeting 8:00 am</p> <p>Joseph Oien Madeline Tronvold</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Evionna Olson</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>WOW / Confirmation 6:30 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>Ashleigh Schroeder</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>Brad Tronvold</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Church Clean Up 9 am-noon</p> <p>First Communion Class 1:30 - 2:30 pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 9:00 am</p> <p>Council Meeting 10:15 am</p> <p>Paige Lowery; Rachel Nickles; Bobbie Reaney</p>	<p>17</p> <div data-bbox="378 1015 609 1242" data-label="Image"> </div>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study at Vangen 6:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>WOW / Confirmation 6:30 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>WELCA 9 am - noon</p>	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>First Communion Class 1:30 - 2:30 pm</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Worship at 9:00 am Healing Service</p> <p>Joshua Hauck</p>	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>WOW / Confirmation 6:30 - 7:30 pm</p> <p>Dorothea Dangel</p>	27	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>Worship with Communion at 9:00 am</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Kari Nelson</p>					