



# Hope Scope

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.*

*John 15:1-2 (NRSV)*

This passage from John's Gospel can be unsettling for us. One thing we learn here is that even if we are bearing good fruit, we are likely to be pruned so that we bear even more fruit. The idea of being pruned can be troubling.

Sometimes we have the idea that if we are doing everything right, then everything will fall into place for us. Sometimes we say that when doors open for us, we know that we are doing God's will, as if God's way for us will always be smooth sailing.

I want to suggest that the truth is more complicated than that. Sometimes it is exceedingly difficult to do the right things. And sometimes, when we come across doors that are closed, God might just be calling us to knock those doors down.

Maybe this seems unfair to us. Maybe we think God should take it easy on us when we are doing good things. Maybe God should make it easier for us to do good things.

That argument can probably be made, but the truth is that much of what God calls us to - while it might bring us some sense of fulfillment and even joy - can also be difficult. This is why God promises to work with us, and this is why it is a blessing to know that we are not on our own. We have each other in all this. We never have to work alone. We never have to figure out all the hard things on our own. We have each other.

God has given us each other. Sometimes I think we take that gift for granted. You have a gift in others of this church, and you are a gift to the rest of us. And the gift is - as all good gifts are - from God. So even when things get hard, and even when you feel like God is pruning you yet again, you know that it is only to better suit you for God's work, and you know you are never alone.

Blessings,

Brian Jones

At its April 4th meeting, the Session:

- Received three proposals by the Property Committee to create a new entry area on the east side of the church from the parking lot.
- Approved collecting children's clothing and donations for Foster Stitches April 13th through May 4th, 2025.
- Approved financing no more than \$600 for an adult chaperone to attend Triennium 2025 in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Requested Pastor Jones speak with the owner of the construction company developing the property east of the church to minimize any damage to the church's parking lot and easement road.
- Was informed the outdoor electronic sign has been delivered and will be installed soon.
- Approved Faith Lutheran Church of Spicer using the church's handbells for a public senior camp May 5th - 7th and a subsequent worship service.

The following volunteered to serve communion on Sunday, May 4th, 2025 at the 10:00 a.m. worship service: Steve Barney, Howard Jones, Deb Ficek, Jody Leason and Dee Schurman

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## FINANCE REPORT

	March	Year to Date 03/31/2025	Year to Date Monthly Average
Income	\$22,423.75	\$58,561.00	\$19,520.33
Expenses	\$21,392.81	\$72,057.00	\$24,019.00
Net Profit (Loss)	\$1,030.94	(\$6,022.11)	
Income Needed to Cover Monthly Budgeted Expenses			\$26,748.96
Per Capita Assessment for 2025			\$7,500.00
Per Capita Paid by Members Through 03/31/2025			\$2,456.00

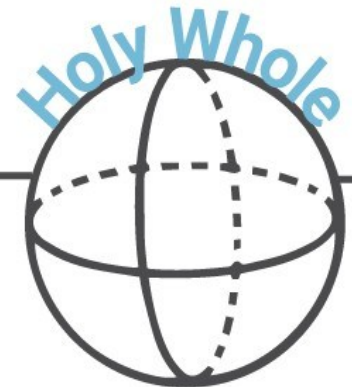
Kristene Foreman, Treasurer

**In 2025, Per Capita has increased to \$46.00 per active member.**



May 5, 6, & 7, 2025  
8:30-11:30am

Faith Lutheran - Spicer, MN



# OWL CAMP 2025

Living with God  
in the Wilderness

Calling all **Older Wiser Learners** for our second annual OWL Camp here at Faith Lutheran Church!

The theme this year is "Holy Whole" Living with God in the Wilderness". **Registration is open to all adults (not just Faith members)**, - help us spread the word & invite others to join you!

## OWL (Older Wiser Learners) Camp sample schedule:

- 8:30am Continental breakfast and fellowship
- 9:00am Music
- 9:30am **Study led by the Pastors and Bishop Dee Pederson**
- 10:30am Choice Time - (choice of activities such as art, music, devotions, games, etc.)
- 11:20am Closing Worship

*\*\*A free will offering will be taken each day to help cover costs.*

**REGISTER AT [FAITHSPICER.ORG](http://FAITHSPICER.ORG) OR BY CALLING  
THE FAITH OFFICE AT 320-796-2522.**



## Christian Education Youth & Families

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:1



All the youth hosted the last soup and bread Lenten supper. The TAG (Teens and God) group, directed by Liz and Jason Windingstad, again brought “Jesus Food”. It was delicious!



The Adult Bible Study participants made empty tomb buns on Palm Sunday, in anticipation of Easter Sunday. They turned out pretty well!



The Christian Education Youth and Families Committee, along with the entire church, is collecting clothing and monetary donations for Foster Stitches. This is a program provided under The Link in New London. This service provides clothing to foster families.



# **Christian Education Leaders 2024-2025**

## **Preschool- Second Grade**

Wally Titus, Alisa Taatjes

## **Third Grade – Sixth Grade**

Joni Lamphere, Sarah Sampson

Substitute: Jeff Lamphere

## **Pre-confirmation**

Jonelle Foreman

## **T.A.G.**

## **Seventh Grade – Twelfth Grade**

Jason and Liz Windingstad

Subs - Pastor Brian and Tyann Jones

## **Adult Bible Studies**

Greg Mulder

Eileen Helmstetter

Joyce Schroeder

Tyann Jones

Pastor Brian Jones

## **Opening Exercises**

Tyann Jones

## **Music**

Maggie Harp

## **Substitutes**

Jonelle Foreman

Tyann Jones, Deb Ficek

## **Christian Education Youth & Families Committee**

Deb Ficek

Allie Johnson

Tyann Jones

Alisa Taatjes

Joni Lamphere

Melissa Mangen

Amanda Titus

Pam Sigafos

Maggie Harp

Jonelle Foreman

Stephanie Bents

## **Wednesday Night Family Supper Committee**

Robin Mulder

Pam Sigafos

Dee Schurman

Carol Sampson

## **Ministry Staff Assistants**

Karen Bents

Stephanie Bents

**Thank you  
for guiding us “on a roll with God.”**



**“The Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9b**



**Congratulations to Ava O'Malley!**

**Ava will be going to Duluth, MN to study radiology science**

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## **Fridge Bridge**

### **Upcoming events:**

- 5-4 Baccalaureate will be held at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 pm  
Everyone is welcome.
- 5-7 ALL youth going to GlenOaks to share a time of learning, fun, and  
fellowship with the residents in the independent living apartments.
- 5-9 Meatball supper from 4:00-7:00pm. Students be at church at 3:30.
- 5-14 Last day of Wednesday night classes. Cook-out. Fun activity planned!
- 5-16 thru 18 Clearwater Forest - Clean up Weekend
- 5-18 NL-S Graduation
- 5-20 CEYF Committee meeting at 6:30
- 6-22 Church-wide potluck picnic at Games Lake after church - meal at 12:30



# APRIL 2025 IMPACT FROM THE LINK

## THE FOOD PANTRY



In March, The Food Pantry served **214 households** - including 369 adults, 180 children and 62 seniors-distributing a total of 11,917 pounds of food!

## CLIENT OUTREACH and HOUSEHOLD EXCHANGE

Each month, The Link is able to provide support to a number of families facing hardships, such as (but not limited to): job loss, chronic illness, unexpected change in family dynamics and increase in the cost of living.



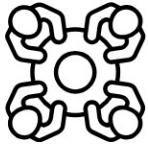
In March, your donations were able to support **66 families** by helping with medical bills and prescription cost, utility bills and rental payments along with providing budgeting support, networking and referrals for additional basic household needs including clothing, winter gear, dishes and furniture!

## WILDCAT BACKPACK AND SNACK PANTRY



The Wildcat Backpack Program is again providing students from NLS for the weekend. Currently, there are **141 students** benefitting from this program! If you would like to sponsor a child for the year, please call Ashley at 320-354-5465

The **Snack Pantry** is currently providing snacks for over 30 teachers at NLS to distribute to their students throughout the school day.



## TUESDAY'S TABLE

A free community meal the 1st Tuesday of the month: Our Lady of the Lakes (Spicer), 2nd Tuesday: Evangelical Covenant (New London), 3rd Tuesday: Faith Lutheran (Spicer), 4th Tuesday: Peace Lutheran (New London), 5th Tuesday: Crossroads Community Church (Spicer).

## SAVE THE DATE: RIBFEST 2025-JUNE 7TH 2PM-5PM

We are currently looking for silent auction items. If you would like to donate a basket OR monetarily, please contact Shawna at 320-347-1047

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Pray for the Link and the community; Help us spread awareness by talking about The Link to your friends and family and sharing on social media; Donate unexpired food items to the food pantry or organize a food drive; Volunteer at the thrift store or in the food pantry;



Donate your gently used clothing and household goods- (all proceeds kick back into The Link's programs);  
Donate financially-

**Remember for every \$1 donated, The Link can purchase \$10 in food through Second Harvest.**

## CURRENT NEEDS:

- Household essentials and gently used clothing;
- Food: Kid-friendly food (corn dogs, chicken nuggets, french fries, pizza, Monetary donations.

### Donations made easy

Monthly giving at the the Link is convenient . You can set up online giving directly through your bank or by visiting The Link's website at [www.youarethelink.org](http://www.youarethelink.org) by scanning the QR code. You can also mail your donation to P.O. Box 823 , New London, MN 56273, drop off your donation in person or leave your check in the drop box outside of The Link's door at 20 Central Ave E, New London.



Questions? Contact Ashley at 320-354-5555.

# Thank you for your support! YOU are The Link!



# **60<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER**

Fundraiser for the youth attending  
Clearwater Forest Camp this summer!



**Friday, May 9th**

**4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Hope Presbyterian Church  
7730 North Shore Drive – Spicer**

Cost: \$15.00 Adults  
\$10.00 Children 6-10 years

Menu: Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy,  
Corn, Coleslaw, Bread, Homemade Bars & Beverage

Take outs are available!

Dear Deacons & Our Friends at Hope -

Thank you so much for the cards and words of kind sympathy at the time of my brother Sam's death. We feel so blessed to be so warmly welcomed into your fellowship! He is Risen! Blessed Easter!

Sue & Jerry Schiro



## May's CARE Pantry Challenge is.....

### Birthday Kit items



Please place your donations on the table in front of the mailboxes. Thank you!

## MAY COFFEE SERVERS

May 4: Sandy & Jeff Wersal

May 11: Liz & Jason Windingstad

May 18: Leslie & Mark Radabaugh

May 25: Kathy & Daryl Taatjes



## *Prayer Requests*



### **Members with Health Issues:**

Dee Schurman, Ruth Birkeland, Dick Lindahl, Arlos Jones, Pastor Brian Jones, Savannah Appleby, Mike Carlson, Jackie Wahl, Larry Bratsch, Palmer Norling, Wayne Thompson, Frank & Shelly Peralta, Darlene Thompson, Bob Hinderks

### **Family and Friends with Health Issues:**

Rick Gerhardson (Greg Swenson's neighbor), Pete Rembold (friend of Brian & Tyann), Yvette Payne (friend of Belize mission team), Wilma Jones (Pastor Brian's mom), Linda VanMeter (neighbor/friend of Karen & Jerry Bents's), Krista (Brooke Appleby's friend, Joanna Hanson (Helmstetter's niece)

### **Grieving:**

Family of Joyce Barber, Family of Sam Chapin (brother of Sue Schiro), Family of Shar Williams

### **Care Facilities:**

Ruth Birkeland (Bethesda – Willmar)  
David Carlson (Bethesda North Pointe - New London)  
Jeanette Gault (GlenOaks - New London)  
Betty Harder (Bethesda North Pointe - New London)  
Arlos Jones (Bethesda Therapy Suites – Willmar)  
Barb Morris (Copperleaf - Willmar)  
Mary Lou Swart (Bethesda North Pointe - New London)

### **Other Concerns:**

For those dealing with mental health issues and who struggle with addiction  
For those deeply wounded by domestic violence  
For those grieving the death and injury of a loved one due to violence and war  
For those affected by natural disasters, illnesses

**May Deacons of the Month: Karen Bents & Sandy Meyer**



# SAVE THE DATE - Smokin' for the Link Ribfest



Saturday, June 7th from 2:00 - 5:00 pm  
In New London's large city parking lot

Tickets on sale at the beginning of May

Other events include:

Porchfest from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

And Live Music on Bill Gossman Memorial  
Stage: 3:00 to 6:00 pm

Currently looking for: Rib cooking teams, Silent  
Auction donations, Monetary donations to purchase  
filler items for silent auction baskets -

Donations are tax deductible!

## Missing Electric Griddle Heating Cord

The church is missing the heating cord to our Bella Electric Griddle. We do have a heating cord for a Presto electric griddle or crock pot. Please check your cords to see if you accidentally took home the wrong cord if you brought your electric griddle for the pancake supper or your crock pot to one of the soup suppers. The wrong cord is in the kitchen on the island, if you would like to see it.

## Office Hours

Monday thru Friday  
8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

## SUNDAYS

8:30 A.M. Outdoor worship in the chapel  
(Starting Sunday, May 25th!)

9:15 A.M. Fellowship Hour

10:00 A.M. Worship in Sanctuary

Also on Facebook Live & on Radio 96.9 FM

TV - Channel 18 or Channel 181

Sundays 2:15 pm

Tuesdays 11:30 am & 3:00 pm

Thursdays 8:00 am & 5:00 pm

