

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

Crossing the Rainbow Bridge?

The family I grew up in loved Norwegian traditions. Well, at least *lefse* because it had sugar and butter. We didn't much talk about Norse myths, and certainly not the mythical rainbow bridge that crossed over to the home of the Norse gods. Lately in conversation with friends or in pop culture, many have used the phrase "crossing the rainbow bridge." Maybe it is because of the success of Marvel movies, or maybe it is a way to acknowledge difficult truths like death or spiritual realities in softer tones that are easier to handle. Either way, it leads me to ask: How do we handle difficult questions about life? Are we prepared to give the reasons for our Hope? Are we prepared as ALL-IN followers of Jesus to lead others to Christ?

Challenged and inspired by these questions and aided by the Navigators Bridge, which has invited many to consider the bridge to life through Holy Scripture, we will consider these questions in a **7-week sermon series beginning April 14**. We will be invited to ask questions, reflect upon and memorize Scripture, and be equipped to share what we have learned with a world who, like us, so desperately needs the Jesus-shaped path He leads us on. **Listed below are some of the verses to reflect upon and memorize.**

**Let's get prepared. We need Jesus. The world needs Jesus.
Let's invite others on this path!**



DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

April 14:	Luke 24:44-47
April 21:	Romans 6:23
April 28:	2 Corinthians 5:17
May 5:	1 John 5:11-12
May 12:	Ephesians 2:8-10
May 19:	Romans 8:1-2
May 26:	Revelation 3:20



GRACE

What Next?

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

Many of you were able to participate in the forum which discussed Eric Metaxas' book, "Letter to the American Church." I advertised this forum before it began as "provocative," and if you've read the book or discussed its topics with others, I'm sure you now agree.

If you haven't had a chance to encounter Mr. Metaxas' work, I urge you to do so. He challenges the people of every congregation, and perhaps especially today's pastors, to engage with the world's prevailing narratives. In fact, and most provocative, he compares the modern American church's lack of public voice to the way in which the German churches and their pastors were quiet and trusting as the Nazis rose to power in the early 1930s. It turned out that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, accompanied by relatively few others, and the few contrary voices were extinguished – Bonhoeffer himself was executed after a long imprisonment just before Hitler would end his own life.

Are we really living in a historical period which has the same dynamics as Nazi Germany? Are people under threat of their lives if they speak in ways which are contrary to the prevailing American thought and speech narrative? If we speak out as Christians today, might we be "cancelled" as Bonhoeffer was when he spoke on the German radio stations in March of 1933? (His broadcast to the nation one month after Hitler assumed power was pulled from the airwaves under mysterious circumstances about 20 minutes after it began.)

As our forum considered these things and much more, as you can imagine, we didn't all agree on many (perhaps none) of the points Mr. Metaxas made in his book. But thanks be to God, we did all listen to one another, and I think some of those thoughts raised from among the group instructed us all in new ways of thinking. We recognized from the Bonhoeffer example (and that of the ancient prophets) that it is often the minority voice which carries God's most important messages.

So, the forum is now over, Easter has almost passed, and the question arises from the forum group, "What next?" What form should our mutual conversation, and perhaps our actions, take in the near future?

Well, first I'll recover from knee replacement surgery. But while I'm recovering during the month of April, I'll be wrestling and planning with the questions above.

To that end, I asked those who participated in the "Letter" forum to suggest topics for future discussion. The suggestions I've received already could keep us busy for many, many months. A quick sample of topics include (in no particular order): abortion, human trafficking, transgender issues, biblical citizenship, nurturing the rising generation, and adjusting worship content and format to better include such topics. That's quite a list, and I assure you, I have been graced with many more topics as well.

What Next? *cont.*

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Now, because I'm a glutton for challenges, I invite you to add to this growing list. If you think deep Christian analysis and discussion on any topic attendant to our time and culture warrants our attention, please let me know. My email address is mbehenna@faithabq.org. I'll be working on the "what next" questions during my rehab, and the results will be forthcoming.

Thank you all for your partnership in our Christian education and mutual mission discussions.

May peace and service be the mark of Christ upon you,
Pr. Mark Behenna

MORE GREAT READS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Call Committee

Please be praying for our Call Committee as they lead the search for a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry.



April Birthdays

1 Paul H. VanDenburg, Norm Siders, Lucy Stewart

2 Ed Woodard, Krista Myers, Elizabeth Daws, Joan Holcomb

3 no birthdays

4 Scott Webb, Nathan Golden, Rebecca Gaston, Tracy Hausermann, Rebecca Schaub

5 Cathy Sorenson, Devon Edwards, Colin Orell, Joseph Bombard

6 Violet Kelly, Grayson Legant, Callan Martin

7 Melissa Covell

8 Megan Jenkins

9 Ellen Gerwin

10 Jean Werth

11 Zoey Kreitinger

12 Vicki Aamodt, Karen Hansen, Anna Gear, Seth Weiss

13 Michael Struck, Sal Ruggieri

14 Karl Behrens

15 Rae Iman, Jeanette Alvstad

16 Shirley Gonzales, Ruth Ronan, Andrea Gahan, Robert Sheldahl

17 Harriet Morgan, Kathryn Morgan

18 Al Erickson Jr, April Volk, Richard Sears, Ann Ebbers, Jessica Armijo

19 Austin Levison

20 Jack Kelly, Tim Tennant

21 Ross Morgan, Stacy Stout

22 no birthdays

23 Jim Burrell, Cassidy Riddle, Chad Lindstrom

24 Natalie Leyba, Theron Webb, Abbana Aqeel

25 Jim Kunitz

26 Ginni Webb, Dean Mattison, Deborah Steudle, Karl Gustafson Jr., Owen Legant

27 Bill Capels, Randall Smith

28 no birthdays

29 Matt Imbert, Reinhart Schelert, Paul Spear, Tim Steudle, Bob Willams

30 Molly Boyd, Alani Anaya Flores, David Humelsine, Mavis Sheldahl



Mission Corner

PREPARED BY GINNI WEBB AND MISSION & SERVICE MINISTRY TEAM

"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS TO THE WHOLE CREATION." -MARK 16:15

Your Mission & Service Ministry Team distributed Mission funds in March as follows:

\$1,000.00 to Cuidando Los Ninos (CLN Kids): Homelessness in our community affects us all. The Mission of Cuidando Los Ninos is to break the cycle of homelessness for children and families by providing high quality early childhood education and care, case management, supportive housing, and parent education. Children are our future. clnabq.org

\$1,000.00 to Roadrunner Food Bank: New Mexico's leading hunger relief organization plays a major role in distributing a variety of donated and purchased food items to people struggling to cover all of their nutritional needs. This commitment to hunger relief has been at the core of their work since their founding in 1979.



AN ABUNDANCE OF PAPER GOODS AND TOILETRY ITEMS COLLECTED FOR SARANAM

Many families beginning their 2-year journey with Saranam towards independence in 2024 at the brand new Westside Campus as well as the Eastside Original Campus will benefit from your generosity and caring, in the name of Jesus Christ.

MEET THE CURRENT MISSION & SERVICE TEAM

We now have 14 members on the Faith Lutheran Mission & Service Team representing all 4 of our Church Services. We are always here to answer questions, listen to your suggestions, and represent all of you as we faithfully distribute funds each month to our Mission Partners.

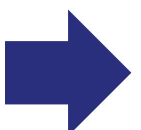
Front Row L to R: Mary Lou Crichton, Donna Burnett, Ginni Webb, Mary Joyce May

Middle Row L to R: Jan Lohrding, Ann Bolton, Brenda Zepper, Maureen Sill, Bev Caplis-Knirk

Top Row L to R: Karen Kainer, Gwen Peterson, Peggy Kelly, Marcia Castillo, Deb Buterbaugh



MISSION CORNER is continued on the next page with an update from our mission partner Friends of Madagascar Mission



Mission Corner *cont.*



As one of our Mission Partners, benefiting the people of Madagascar, Faith Lutheran participates in several aspects of all they do. As a congregation, we support evangelists, students through the Nofy I Androy Program, the Village Redemption Program, and Water Wells & Water Systems, all done in Christian service. However, there is so much more that is part of their Mission.

**[Click here or visit this link to get the full "2023 ANNUAL REPORT":
madagascarmission.org/annual-reports-and-audit-reports](https://madagascarmission.org/annual-reports-and-audit-reports)**

Thank You

Dear Pastors Jerry, Mark, Members and Staff,

Your cards, gifts, and well wishes during my recent retirement are very much appreciated. You have blessed my life.

Diane Wilder

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you for remembering **Meals on Wheels** with your gift of \$750. Because of you, more of your neighbors will receive vital hunger relief with home-delivered meals and social support!

Your kindness has helped build a compassionate community at Meals on Wheels New Mexico – easing worries, ending hunger, and making those who feel alone part of something special. This network unites generations, bringing hope and help to those who need it most.

On behalf of every senior touched by your generosity, thank you.

Sincerely,
**Shauna Frost, Chief Executive Officer
Meals on Wheels New Mexico**



Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

You've been a generous supporter of **Meals on Wheels New Mexico** (MOWNM), and we are grateful for your leadership. Your help means so much to us, but it means even more to your hungry neighbors, who will receive food, friendship and more – all because of you!

Your support has also given you entry into the **Lunch Bunch Giving Club**. This giving circle is composed of compassionate people who have given a cumulative amount of \$1,370 or more since the fall, which is the cost to feed one hungry neighbor for a year. To celebrate your partnership in this work, we invite you to enjoy these benefits:

- Recognition in our Annual Report as a member of the Lunch Bunch.
- Regular updates on the impact of your contributions through the Food for Thought newsletter.

Again, welcome to the Lunch Bunch! Thank you for your commitment to Meals on Wheel New Mexico, and for being a powerful driver of the MOWNM mission.

Gratefully,
**Shauna Frost, Chief Executive Officer
Meals on Wheels New Mexico**

Thank You *cont.*

Dear Faith Lutheran Church:

You know that change is possible. Thank you for being a part of that change. For 38 years, **Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless (AHCH)** has been the premier health and service provider for our neighbors facing homelessness, your support is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Your donation of \$1,000.00 ensures access to outreach and site-based services, including medical, dental, and behavioral health care, social supports, and drop-in spaces where people get respite from the streets, basic resources, and linkages to housing, rooted in models informed by personal choice, dignity, and respect. **You make it possible for us to have an even greater impact on our community. Without you, this cannot happen.**

As the cost of living continues to climb, more families each day are faced with the impossible and unjust choice between healthcare and housing. Your gift is an act of social justice not charity. By including AHCH in your philanthropic giving plans you make ending homelessness possible by helping us eliminate the systemic inequities and structural barriers that cause and perpetuate homelessness. Your gift is a helping hand and an immediate step out of homelessness for thousands of men, women, and families. **Together, we are working towards a world that is just and without homelessness.**

On behalf of all of us at AHCH—Thank You,
Jennifer L. Metzler
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Members of Faith,

The picture above illustrates the topography and vegetation of Haiti. The tall mountains, deep valleys, and coastline show the variety of terrain where the schools and homes are built. The sunshine captures my attention as I look at the shadows and the brilliant blue skies. This picture paints a peaceful, serene life without air pollution. However, it doesn't tell the reality of life in Haiti. The hardships and difficult decisions families must make to keep their children safe aren't depicted here. Our Christian friends in Haiti realize they are not alone in making these decisions and overcoming the trials. God is their true Light, friend, and advisor. Isaiah 60:19 reminds us, the sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. This TRUTH gives our friends in Haiti HOPE. Regardless of the perils that man faces, God lights his way through the darkness.

Thank you for your gift of \$1,250.00 and being a part of the light by providing a nutritious meal every day for the children. Please pray for the children, teachers, pastors, feeding program directors, and parents.

Serving Christ Together,
Candi Cook, Operations Manager; Penny McMahon, Gift Response; Jennifer Perkins, Admin. Assistant
Trinity HOPE

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the **Storehouse** family, thank you for your gift of \$1,000. Your donation will provide 5,000 meals for those in need.

Across the board, higher food costs, the end of COVID benefits, and inflation have impacted many people in our community. As a result, we've seen a substantial increase in the number of people visiting the pantry over the last several months. The Storehouse is committed to providing food to every person who walks through our doors. Your support allows us to honor our commitment to our community and ensure that families facing food insecurity always have a place to turn to.

We are so blessed to have your help in feeding families in our community and are very grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Amy Lavender
Development Coordinator **Lindsay Caldwell**
VP of Development

Financials

2024	Month of February	Year-To-Date as of 02/29/24	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$169,255	\$357,554	
budget	\$141,286	\$282,572	\$74,982
expenses	\$117,446	\$247,717	\$109,837

Please note: Expenses are subject to change pending the Annual Financial review.

March 2024 Council Meeting Summary

This month's meeting had a presentation from the Engagement Task Force (formerly Attendance Task Force). The Outreach Task Force is preparing for the upcoming Easter Egg hunt as well as offering the Financial Peace University course. The Facilities Task Force is beginning work to bring the parking lot into ADA compliance before resurfacing and votes were held to approve their expenditures. A call committee was approved and it was announced that Jennifer Wilson was hired as an interim summer activity intern.

Did you know you can read the full minutes of each Council meeting? Once the minutes from the previous month's meeting are approved, they are placed in a binder that is kept in a drawer of the curved counter in the Centrum. You are free to access it at your convenience.

Your 2024 Church Council

Stanley "Buzz" Busboom, President
Doug Dederman, Vice President

Jessica Anderson
Rachel Archer
Hank Bohnhoff
Jim Burrell

Bill Dennis
Brady Gear
Kaiya Phillips
Jennifer Wilson



Faith Members Serving Our Community

We are so grateful for Faith members Doug Dederman and Mark Platzbecker volunteering with our mission partner Saranam! They installed shelving in the laundry area of Saranam's multipurpose training facility/home in January 2024.

Events & Announcements

New Member Class

Sunday, April 7th, 12:30-2:30PM

Military Mission Support

Packing April 8, 5:30pm

Men's Bible & Brew

April 2, 16

Moms' Bible Study

April 12, 26

"The Chosen" Season 3 study

April 10, 17, 24

Lunch & Learn

April 18, 11am

April menu for Wednesday nights

3

PASTA NIGHT

10

TACO SALAD NIGHT

17

PIZZA



24

*CHEF'S CHOICE

MAY
1

*CHEF'S CHOICE

*Watch the weekly email for the menu on these 2 dates

Financial Peace University

Christ-centered
Personal
Money
Management
Classes

Classes begin April 8th at 6:30pm
Nine consecutive Mondays
Meet in Faith's Lecture Hall

This class
limited to
40 participants!

Sign up
in the
Centrum



RAMSEY
FinancialPeace
UNIVERSITY

ME MYSELF AND MY IPHONE

Managing the screens in your life.

Faith LUTHERAN CHURCH A 4-Week Series for Middle & High School
Starting Sunday, April 7th 9:30AM

MID- and HIGH SCHOOLERS!

We're starting a new Sunday school class for you during the 9:30am service.

Join us for this 4-week series beginning Sunday, April 7th at 9:30AM!

Events & Announcements *cont.*

★★★
MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY
CARE PACKAGES

NEXT PACKING DATE:
APRIL 8, 5:30PM

We are running low on the following items
(all items must be in original, sealed packaging):

- Protein bars
- Fruit snacks
- Mini boxes of cereal (individual size)
- Small cans of fruit
- Vienna sausages (small cans)
- Jerky sticks (individually wrapped, assorted flavors)

The Military Collection box is in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Pastor Mark Behenna.





Faith
LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Member Class

Spring 2024

Sunday, April 7th
12:30-2:30pm
(with lunch)

Sign up in the Centrum or
contact Karen Kainer
or Pastor Jerry

Lunch and Learn April 18th at 11:00



**Kurt Lanes will be our presenter on
Astrophotography**

Military Prayer List

SUPPORTING OUR MEN & WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY THROUGH PRAYER,
SHARING THE WORD OF GOD, AND ENCOURAGING THEIR MORALE & WELFARE.

For changes/additions to this list, please contact Pr Mark Behenna or the church office at 505-296-0762.



Ainsley Burrell

Leah Gallegos

James Hansen

Chris Hinnerichs

Alec Kainer

Joshua Fanning

Liam Fink

Logan Nebl

Faun O'Brien

Joseph O'Brien

Jason F. Ruetschilling

Courtney Werth

William Werth

Patrick Winkels

General News

Recent Baptisms:

- Kiera Bailey Torres, March 17th

Help Us Stay Up-To-Date!

If you've moved, changed your cell phone number, gotten rid of your landline, changed your email address, etc. - Don't forget to let your church know! You can contact the church office at 505-296-0762 to update your records.

Listen to Church with your Landline

Listening to Services Over the Phone
Please dial 1.833.531.1980

Prayer Chain

Volunteers for this ministry respond to all prayer requests by praying for the names they receive. All requests are confidential. To notify us of a prayer need, contact the church office at 505.296.0762.

Hospital & Home Visits

Please call the church office to let us know of hospitalizations, illnesses, and situations of need and we will make every effort to be present with you or your loved one. Our prayers continue for all those in need of healing, comfort, and peace.

LCMC (lcmc.net)

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ is an association of independent, evangelical and mission driven congregations grounded in the Scriptures and working together to fulfill Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

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Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

