

MARCH 2024

FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS

“And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Mark 16:8

All our cards on the table.

One of the things I love about the testimony of our Faith in Christ is that nothing is hidden. Mark doesn't sugarcoat the astonishment of the earliest believers. In fact, the earliest manuscripts have the Gospel of Mark ending at Mark 16:8. After sixteen chapters of relaying to us that Jesus is the Christ, Mark doesn't shy away from showing the initial reaction of some of the first believers.

Cold-case homicide detective and author J. Warner Wallace says that “The Bible is a claim about history.”[1] The Gospel of Mark knows that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He is raised from the dead. We can lay our cards out on the table and trust the facts, even in a secular world that has questions.



Holy Women at Christ's Tomb, by Annibale Carracci, Public domain

Christians can be comfortable honestly revealing our questions as the Gospel of Mark does, because we trust the truth. Dr. James Tabor, professor of Christian origins and ancient Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, observes the amazing archeological finds that affirm the resurrection, including a first-century tomb where he reports: “On one of the ossuaries, or bone boxes in this tomb, is a four-line Greek inscription which I have translated as: *I Wondrous Jehovah lift up—lift up!*”[2] The assertion of this resurrection faith is clear. Concerned about questions, some manuscripts have added vs. 9-20. Every Bible you read today makes note of that because we aren't afraid about being transparent with the truth.

Let's lay our cards on the table. As we approach Holy Week this month we can boldly state that what we believe is a claim on history, a claim that changes our lives and the world around us. This claim changes everything. May it truly lead us to be **ALL-IN** on a path that Jesus has shaped. As we celebrate this radical truth on which all other Christian truth is founded, may we savor, shout, and share with those closest to us and to the world around us:

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

[1] Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity: A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels* (pp. 181-182). David C Cook. Kindle Edition.

[2] “The “Strange” Ending of the Gospel of Mark and Why It Makes All the Difference.” Biblical Archaeology Society, April 2018. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/the-strange-ending-of-the-gospel-of-mark-and-why-it-makes-all-the-difference/>.

Easter Vigil Redux

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

In 2023 our congregation expanded its observation of Holy Week to include the Easter Vigil for the first time in many, many years. For those who missed out on the opportunity last year, you should know that the Easter Vigil is the final movement in a three-day-long worship service which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. These three movements are connected by silence which is observed beginning at the end of one service and then extends to the beginning of the following service when we gather again on the next day. Over the course of these three services we experience the Lord's Supper and farewell to His disciples, Christ's passion on the cross, and the discovery of the empty tomb. This three-stage movement of worship is sometimes called "The Three Days" or "The Triduum."

Last year many of those who came to our Easter Vigil worship said that they found it moving and meaningful. Shortly after Easter last year, I wrote an apology in this space for the length of our Vigil worship. Since then, Pr. Watts and I have scrubbed our worship plans and the manner in which we gather to commemorate our baptisms, share the Lord's Supper, the number and length of Bible lessons we will present, and more. I sincerely believe that you will see that we have retained the depth of meaning this service conveys while making the length of the Vigil more in keeping with what we experience on Saturday or Sunday worship.

If you haven't experienced an Easter Vigil before, you will be struck by our declaration, "This is the night!" That call recognizes that we are marking our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. The night of the Vigil touches at the heart of our celebration of The Three Days and leads us to the pinnacle of the Church's year. The Vigil proclaims the resurrection of Christ in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, welcome our sisters and brothers at the font, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, as He promised, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

I pray that you will join us for this year's Easter Vigil worship offering and all of our Holy Week and Easter ("Resurrection of Our Lord") worship services. A schedule follows.

Palm Sunday Observance	Saturday, March 23rd, 5:00pm
	Sunday, March 24th, 8:00am, 9:30, 11:00am
Maundy Thursday	Thursday, March 28th, noon and 7:00pm
Good Friday	Friday, March 29th, noon and 7:00pm
Easter Vigil	Saturday, March 30th, 5:00pm
Easter Worship	Sunday, March 31st, 8:00am, 9:30, 11:00am

continued on the next page

Easter Vigil Redux *cont.*

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

A few words about the Resurrection of Our Lord ... As people of the cross, we are called to continue on the path to peace, justice, and reconciliation—even when this is difficult. Even when it is dangerous. Even when others think us foolish. Even when the world insists the stone is too large, too heavy, too complicated to be moved.

But on Easter morning, we are reminded of the good news that the stone has already been rolled back! Therefore, as people of the resurrection, we walk not with heads down and backs bent with grief, but with eyes on the empty tomb. As people of the resurrection, we lift our eyes to the hills and mountains of Jerusalem, the city of resurrection, from which we draw our help and strength. As people of the resurrection, we have nothing to fear – no stone, no terror group, no extremist rhetoric, no unjust policy, no racist agenda, no diagnosis, no wall. By the power of God to bring Jesus forth from the grave, we know the same shall be true for us as He promised in our baptism. Thanks be to God that at Easter we are freed from all earthly restrictions so that we may “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord” and serve our brothers and sisters!

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

MORE GREAT READS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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March Birthdays

PREPARED BY DIANE WILDER, CHURCH OFFICE

1 Roger Campbell, Tony Martino, Chrissy Pease

2 Alan Lampson, Brenda Williams

3 Stefani Hausermann, Bob Oberdorfer

4 Connie Heller-Zeiger

5 Lloyd Bonzon, Avery Erben

6 Logan Allison, Josh Mahler, Mary Reinhart, Ekasha Saroea, Marty Shaneyfelt

7 Logan Lasher, Kaitlyn McLeod

8 Mackenie Hendrex, Jeri Riney, Gwen Peterson, Linda Stefoin

9 Luna Dawson, DeDe Gear

10 Lonnie Dennis, Matthew Harding, Pat Orell, Vincent Ramirez, Lisa Walters

11 Tamara Leyba, Heather Martin

12 No birthdays

13 Aurelia Allen, Zach Crow

14 Bryce Byrd, Lori Scalia

15 Alanah Leyba, Faheem Shahzad, Kendrick Walter

16 Clare Castiglia, Vicki Hedin, Evan Kist, Pamela Lewis, Jennifer Mahoney, Alice Strack

17 Jack Grassham

18 Brady Gear, Dale Heincelman, Lavonne Huber, Peggy Kociscin, Gail Krekel

19 Kara Calvert, Camille Carstens, Lauren Harstad, Judy Swenson, Gavin Webb

20 Greg Archuleta Jr, Lindsey Johnson, Nancy Wang

21 Presley Ansotigue, Zachary Erben, Gillian Harding, Margot Teel

22 Taylor Bombard, Herman Haase

23 Sylvia Adair, Beverly Imbert

24 Kevin Cox, Kyle Kreitinger, Paul VanDenburg

25 Scott Lovedahl, Wynne Wood

26 Darlene Cox, Kurt Deshayes, Len Schwab, Tim Webb

27 Justin Mahler


28 Cheryl Mattison

29 JoAnne Anderson, Brady Griffith, Amanda Stavig

30 Dale Abbott

31 No birthdays



 vitalant. **JEANNE KOURY**
MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH
8:30 AM to 12:15 PM at Faith Lutheran

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 February as follows:

\$1,250.00 to Trinity Hope: Feeding over 62,000+ hungry children daily in Haiti in 265+ Christian Schools. This is a portion of Faith Lutheran Church's commitment to The Bread of Life Matching Funds Campaign. trinityhope.org

\$1,000.00 to Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless: With your support, AHCH provides integrated health care that overcomes barriers for people experiencing homelessness. abqhch.org

\$1,000.00 to The Storehouse New Mexico: Striving to make sure that everyone, from young children to senior citizens, has nutritious food to eat. As one of the largest food pantries in New Mexico, food is provided for approximately 55,000 people (1.5 million meals) per year who come to our pantry for groceries. storehousenm.org

\$ 750.00 to Meals On Wheels New Mexico: Delivering over 141,000 meals each year, providing needed nutrition with a friendly smile and a wellness check, with no restrictions for age or disability. mow-nm.org

BE PART OF THE FAITH LUTHERAN LENTEN PROJECT FOR SARANAM! COLLECTION ENDS SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH



"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Ephesians 2:10

Our local mission partner Saranam has very exciting news this year. A new westside campus will be opening, allowing up to 10 additional families the opportunity to be part of Saranam's 2-Year Program this spring.

Our Mission & Service Team, with YOUR help, is collecting the **Paper Goods and Toiletry Supplies** listed below to stock the new campus housing units.

Monetary donations are also welcome in the form of **checks payable to SARANAM.**

PAPER GOODS ITEMS

- Toilet Paper (12 Roll Packs)
- Paper Towels (2 Roll packs Select-A-Size)
- Tissues (2 Boxes)
- Coffee Filters (Sized 8-12 Cup)
- Plastic Zip Sandwich Bags
- Plastic Freezer Quart Bags
- Plastic Freezer Gallon Bags
- Aluminum Foil
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags (25+ Count)
- New Reusable Shopping Bags

NOTE: All toiletry items are full size.

TOILETRY SUPPLIES ITEMS

- Hairbrushes
- Hair Combs (Combo Packs)
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste (Adults)
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste (Kids)
- Shampoo/Conditioner (Suave or Garnier Fructis)
- Suave Body Wash (Adults & Kids)
- Bar Soap (Full Size Bars)
- Lotion
- Sunscreen Full Size (SPF 30+)
- Women's Deodorant (Secret or Suave)
- Women's Disposable Razors (2-4 packs)
- Liquid Hand Soap & Refill

A special thank you to the Faith Quilters for donating 30 quilts to Saranam at the January Lunch and Learn!

Thank You

Hello Everyone!

We received the very generous donation of \$11,078.36 from the 2023 Generosity Initiative and feel very blessed we can continue the important community work that this donation provides!!

FeedNM Kids is still going **very strong** and the four schools we deliver to each week are thankful for the help their students have received. We haven't had a full church packing in a couple of months because in mid-January we had Cub Scout Pack 409 help pack for their community service project. We had about 20 very energetic and enthusiastic scouts and parents and they packed 490 snack packs, which provided enough snack packs through the end of February!!

Thanks to Ann Bolton and Maureen Sill in assisting our very helpful group of scouts.

By the time this goes to print we will already have had the Feed The Need event at Faith on Sunday, Feb 25th.

Thanks again for your service to the FeedNMKids.

Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!
Pam, Marcia, Yvonne, Lisa & Betsy

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Staff,

Thank you for providing such a wonderful location and great support for our very first Metro District Al-Anon Speaker Event with A.A. participation. I heard so much that guests felt welcomed, and loved the space and service from the staff. We sure hope to plan another opportunity at Faith again later this year. Thank you for everything.

With Love,
Navida Johnson
Al-Anon District Representative for District 6

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

This winter has been incredibly challenging for your homebound neighbors, but your support as a friend of Meals on Wheels has had an immense impact, and I cannot thank you enough!

The overwhelming generosity you've shown is truly remarkable. Your unwavering commitment to helping your neighbors has deeply touched us. I'm moved beyond words to convey what this means for our cause. **Your support has allowed us to reach and serve more neighbors in need than ever before** throughout your neighborhood and across New Mexico.

Thank you again for your compassion, your incredible generosity, and your readiness to assist community members in times of crisis. Friends like you are invaluable, providing strength and sustenance to your cherished neighbors in ways that go far beyond measure. Your support is appreciated, more than words can express.

All my best,
Shauna M. Frost
Chief Executive Officer
Meals on Wheels New Mexico

Thank You *cont.*

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the board, staff, and families of Saranam, we thank you for your generous contribution of \$350.00. Your donation will go directly to support our families as they break cycles of homelessness and poverty to pursue paths of independence and self-sufficiency.

Since 2004, Saranam has served 172 families experiencing homelessness, including 196 adults and 362 children. The Saranam model is rooted in a holistic, two-generational approach. Families who participate in the program benefit from safe, secure housing, academic and vocational education, life skills education, children's programming to target the special needs of vulnerable children, and community support systems to provide guidance, encouragement, friendship, and positive reinforcement.

"Because of Saranam I am a happier, healthier person. I am able to provide stability for my children. I am able to provide a happy, well-rounded home."

Your continued support enables Saranam to make significant and positive impacts on an increasing number of families experiencing homelessness in our community. Together we can end their poverty and homelessness, bringing them hope for a bright future.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Tracy Weaver
Executive Director, Saranam



Faith Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$350.00. Thank you for investing in the children and families of Cuidando Los Ninos. With your support and partnership, we are breaking the cycle of homelessness. Our amazing staff gets our families off the streets, into housing and on the right track for a successful future.

At Cuidando, we provide young children experiencing homelessness with the highest quality pre-school experience, nutritious meals throughout the day and most importantly we provide a safe environment for our families both in and out of the classroom. Parents receive education and support which builds self-confidence and resiliency ensuring that the family is stable. For us at Cuidando Los Ninos, this is our goal for every family that walks through our doors.

This goal for every family could not be possible without individuals like you. Again, thank you for investing in our children and families. We appreciate you being the voice, light, and energy that it takes to change lives.

Sincerely,
Ashley Martinez
Major Gifts and Public Relations Director, Cuidando Los Ninos

Thank You *cont.*

Dear FLC Dorcas Group,

Thank you for your very generous donation of beautiful afghans, hats, drawstring bags, and sweater and hat sets. They will be such special gifts for the children who receive them, and the parents truly appreciate knowing that people in the community are thinking of them.

We have received a total of:

- 40 baby afghans
- 16 hats
- 1 baby sweater w/hat
- 26 draw string bags

Our mission is to give hope to children diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses through the delivery of a Basket of Hope filled with toys, games, craft items, stuffed animals, and more Hope Totes are optional for the parents and contain gifts to nourish them physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

We could not accomplish our mission without continued support from our community and donors like you. We appreciate your partnership, and we are very thankful for your generosity and kindness.

Sincerely,
Angela Martin
Albuquerque Branch Coordinator
Basket of Hope

Dear Pastor Watts and the Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

Greetings and prayers from your brothers and sisters at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. It was a great delight to receive your letter and know that your congregation is remembering us in prayer. With the way the Church of Jesus Christ is under attack these days and the way that the eternal truths taught by our Savior are being quickly forgotten or eroded, it is more important than ever before that all Christian Congregations remember and support one another and that the eternal truths of Salvation alone in Jesus is our only hope. Thank you for your prayers and be assured that we shall remember you in our prayers this next Sunday.

Your Partner in Christ,
Pastor Doug Zurek, Interim Pastor
St. Peter's Lutheran Church (LCMC), Creston, NE

To The Mission & Service Team, Quilters, and Dorcas Knitters,

Thank you for the quilts, blankets, thermals, socks, underwear, and everything else. Everyone was so happy and grateful for what they got. These items were needed!

Ro Ellsworth
Standing Rock Senior Center

Financials

2023	Month of December	Year-To-Date as of 12/31/23	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$276,779	\$1,761,241	
budget	\$141,286	\$1,695,388	\$65,853
expenses	\$125,845	\$1,614,697	\$146,544

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

2024	Month of January	Year-To-Date as of 01/31/24	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$188,299	\$188,299	
budget	\$141,286	\$141,286	\$47,013
expenses	\$130,271	\$130,271	\$58,028

February 2024 Council Meeting Summary

Russ Skocypec and Hal Lewin presented the plans and activities of the Facilities Task Force. The parking lot will be refurbished and work will begin to make changes to the FLC sign on Spain Road. Renewing the sanctuary viewscreen was also covered. There were updates from the two other task forces as well. The council voted to re-appoint their recording secretary. Updates were given on the staffing vacancies and the call committee formation.

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

Events & Announcements

4-week Adult Forum on "Letter to the American Church" by Eric Metaxas

- Sundays 9:30am & 11am:
March 3, 10, 17
- Wednesdays 6:30pm:
March 6, 13, 20

Military Mission Support Packing March 11, 5:30pm

Men's Bible & Brew March 5, 19

Moms' Bible Study March 15

"The Chosen" Season 3 study March 6 - Meeting #6 March 13 - Group Dinner Out March 20 - Meeting #7 March 27 - NO Meeting (Holy Week)

Lunch & Learn March 21, 11am

Jeanne Koury Memorial Blood Drive March 24, 8:30am-12:15pm

Family Egg Hunt with guest speaker Steve Stucker Saturday, March 30, 11am - 1pm



March menu

for Wednesday nights

6

SOUP AND DELI SANDWICHES

13

SLOPPY JOES AND GRILLED CHEESE

20

PIZZA



27

NO MEAL - HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK IS MARCH 23-31

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 23rd, 5:00pm

Sunday, March 24th, 8:00am, 9:30, 11:00am

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28th, noon and 7:00pm

Good Friday

Friday, March 29th, noon and 7:00pm

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30th, 5:00pm

Easter Worship

Sunday, March 31st, 8:00am, 9:30, 11:00am

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 Deaths:

- Ted Bryant 1/30
- Jean Lehr, Jennifer Mahoney's mother
- Amy Williams
- Donald Jonson, father of Susan Ellenwood

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.

Faith Lutheran Church
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Albuquerque, NM 87111
Ph. 505-296-0762
Email: faith@faithabq.org
Website: faithabq.org

Current Resident or...

Thank you Lord for:

