



Faith Methodist Church

2622 11th Ave Sidney, NE 69162
Church Phone 308-254-4505
E-mail: faith.mthdst@gmail.com
Facebook Faith Methodist Church
Website https://www.faithmthdst.org

Secretary: Karen Larson
308-249-2066

Office Hours Mon-Thurs 8am-1pm
Fri 9 am - Noon

Pastor: Rev Corey C. Jenkins
Mobile Phone: 308-249-3709
E-mail: crstrnr@gmail.com

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Faith Methodist Church - March 2024

Pastor's Ponderings

The season of Lent seems to be one of the most confusing seasons in the Church year. Advent doesn't seem to be too weird - decorate everything in sight with bright colors, get the house ready for Christmas company, and get wound up about the Christ Child. It's all very up-beat and exciting! And then there's Christmas Day! A day to celebrate Jesus, the third-part of the Divine Trinity, coming forth from the womb to live and walk among us, and to save us from our sins! It's all very joyful and expectant...

Don't forget Easter - again we celebrate Jesus, a man both fully human and fully divine, (and no, I cannot explain how someone can be 200% of anything...) coming forth from the tomb to live and walk among us again, and to give us hope for eternity! Also, a very joyful and expectant time...

But what about Lent? Advent leads to Christmas and Lent leads to Easter - those are our two main seasons on the Church calendar. So why don't we get all that excited about Lent? I think it's because Lent is designed to remind us of our sinful nature and our own mortality - the fact that we all will someday die. Couple that with the lack of colors or decorations, and that we all have it in our heads we have to give up something for Lent, and it doesn't add up to the same excitement as Advent!

Lent is a season of prayer, fasting, and self-denial. It is a season of soul-searching and coming to terms with our sinful nature as human beings. As Christians we are called to be a people of prayer. Not just at meal times or when we are really afraid, but daily, as a means of staying in contact with God.

We are called to fasting - the act of going without food for a specified length of time. Some confusion exists because some have taught in the past that we can "fast" from TV, or video games, or swearing. But that's abstinence - staying away from something - not fasting. Fasting is going without food, but knowing that sooner or later you'll return to it. We are called to use fasting as a spiritual discipline that uses hunger as a reminder to pray or maybe to give the money saved from that meal to the poor.

We are called to self-denial - that is to put ourselves last in every instance so that others may benefit. It is to deny our human nature to be 1st - to have the bestest, biggest, fastest, newest, shiniest...

When seen in that light, no wonder Lent has such a bad rap - no one wants to do all that! Those things aren't fun - they're not exciting like Advent. But I would argue that Lent is probably the most important season of them all. Here's why...

Advent is a preparation time for Christmas - the birth of Jesus. It is a vital part of the story; after all, we couldn't have Easter if it weren't for Christmas! But it's not the main thing, so to speak. Our salvation is not based on Jesus' birth. And Lent is a preparation time for Easter - the resurrection of Jesus. That too is a vital part of the story, but again, is not the main thing. Our salvation is not based on Jesus' resurrection either!

When viewed from the perspective of our eternal salvation, Good Friday should be the culminating High Holy Day of our Christian year! On that day Jesus died for the sins of all people - He gave himself for us as a "stand-in" for our punishment - Jesus died and took upon Himself the penalty of sins. In other words, Jesus died so we don't have to. We are told in Scripture that the "wages of sin is death." Jesus paid that price for us so that we can stand debt-free in front of the Father and accept eternal life! You see - our salvation, our eternal life, is based on Jesus' death!

Easter is our hope. Jesus died for our salvation, but He rose again three days later for our hope! If Jesus had just died, if He was just a good teacher and an all-around good guy, He would have been buried and forgotten. But He lives again - He rose from the dead and appeared to His followers and many others to prove that He'd made good on His word to come back and give us hope for eternal life as well!

All this to say - take advantage of Lent this year - allow your prayer and fasting and self-denial lead you to an excitement unrivaled by the other seasons! Look forward with eager anticipation to Good Friday - celebrate and give thanks for Jesus' willingness to live the ultimate self-denial - actually giving His life for yours and mine. This is only the first of March, and Good Friday and Easter is less than a month away - but I would invite you to join me in this journey of celebrating Jesus!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Corey

Faith Methodist Church

Our Mission:

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ
Who worship passionately,
Love extravagantly,
And witness boldly.

Our Vision:

To know God, to love God,
and to serve God and our neighbor.
(Luke 10:27)

March 2024

Prayer Focus for March - NOW Team

Barb Wachtel, Sarah Jenkins, Drew Glover,
Deb Lafler, Rilla Draper, Wanda Whartman,
Deb Grothe, Gayle Glover,
Rebecca Napier, Linda Brue, Nancy Tremain

Remembering in Prayer

The Family of Vickie Millman,
Lorrie Wood, Connie Reed, Jolene Visser
Lichty



Barb Filanowski

Church Family in the Extended Care Homes
Pete Filanowski, Norma Long, Lucille

Honor God's Word

Sunday Mornings

Worship
9:30 am
Sunday School
1st & 3rd Sunday
8:30 am- 9:15 am
Confirmation Class - 11 am

Weekly Bible Studies

Tuesday
7:30 am - Sun Rise
Romans Study - 10 am

Wednesday
7 am - Men's Breakfast
And Bible Study
At Grandma Jo's

6:30 - 10
Come -n- Go Communion

Thursday
Bad Girls of the Bible
5:30 pm



SOUND

- Mar 3 Loren Hoekema
- Mar 10 Brian Slagle
- Mar 17 Allen Aurich
- Mar 24 Bill Napier
- Mar 31 Adam Price

MUSIC

- Mar 3 Nan & Carolyn
- Mar 10 Marva & Valerie
- Mar 17 Marva & Valerie
- Mar 24 Nan & Carolyn
- Mar 31 Marva & Valerie

USHERS

- Mar 3 Taylor Sprenger, Kevin Sittner, Ron Jessen, Brian Sprenger
- Mar 10 Bret Whartman, Allen Aurich, Greg Sprenger, Kinley Lawson
- Mar 17 Loren Hoekema, Stan Flessner, Mike Mitchell, Drew Glover
- Mar 24 Lanny Schiessler, Kristin Simmons, Brian Slagle, Ron Egger
- Mar 31 Loren Hoekema, Larry Talich, Lanny Schiessler, Bill Michie

POWER POINT

- Mar 3 Avery
- Mar 10 Julie
- Mar 17 Kevin
- Mar 24 Wanda Mar 28 - Chel, Mar 29 - Kristin
- Mar 31 Kristin

KIDZ TIME

- Mar 3 Chuck & Nancy
- Mar 10 Sarah Jenkins
- Mar 17
- Mar 24
- Mar 31 Chuck & Nancy

READERS

- Mar 3 Bob Long
- Mar 10 Taylor Sprenger
- Mar 17 Chuck Liess
- Mar 24 Kristin Simmons
- Mar 31

ACOLYTE

- Mar 3
- Mar 10
- Mar 17
- Mar 24
- Mar 31

GREETERS

- Mar 3 Kahla Sprenger, Peyton & Diana
- Mar 10 Barb & Kaci



Come-n-Go Communion

Short Devotional.
Help yourself to the consecrated elements.
Spend some quiet time in prayer.

Wednesday Mornings: 6:30 am - 10 am
In the Chapel
March 6 - March 27

Thank you to my Church Family for the cards, texts,
and calls. I appreciated hearing from everyone.

Lorraine Lafler

Teams Serving Lenten Brunch

March 3 - Methodist Men

March 10 - Care Share

March 17 - St Patrick's Day Dinner

March 24 - G-1 Youth Group

ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER
Sunday, March 17th Following Worship

If you would like to donate a corn beef brisket please bring it to the church and put it in the freezer. Cheri & Wanda will get them prepared. This is a carry in dinner so please bring a side dish,

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday & Confirmation - March 24 - Worship @ 9:30

Come-n-Go Communion - March 27 @ 6:30 am - 10 am

Maundy Thursday - March 28 @ 7:30 pm

Good Friday - March 29 - Tenebrae Service @ 7:30 pm



SIGN UP HERE →



Norwesca.org

2024 DATES

Camps	Weeks Available	Grade Incoming Grade	Price
Main Camp	1,2,5,7	3-9	\$450
Junior Counselor	1,2,5,7	10-12	\$100
Leadership in Training	1,2,5,7	8-10	\$225
Taste of Camp	Week 3	1-3	\$200
Guardian & Me	Week 4	K-12	\$100
Drama Camp	Week 5	4-10	\$450
Confirmation Camp	Week 6	6-8	\$200
Family Camp	Week 7	K-12	\$220

Dates

Week 1: June 9-14 Week 2: June 16-21 Week 3: June 23-25 Week 4: July 1-2

Week 5: July 7-12 Week 6: July 15-17 Week 7: July 22-26 Week 8: July 28-30

Guardian & Me price includes 1 camper and 1 guardian

Family Camp price includes 3 family members. Each additional member is \$50.

March 2024

Sunday Sunday School - 8:30 - 9:15 am

1st & 3rd Sundays

Monday Ad Council - March 4 @ 5:30 pm

Tuesday Sunrise Bible Study @ 7:30 am
Romans Study @ 10 am
NOW Team—March 5 @ 5:30 pm

Wednesday Men's Breakfast & Book Study @ 7 am

(Grandma Jo's)


G-1 March 6th & 20th @ 6 pm

Come & Go Communion - 6:30 am - 10 am

METHODIST WOMEN IN MISSION

Meeting - March 20th @ 6 pm

All Women are Welcome



Spring is Coming!

Many thanks to all of you who supported Grace Gardens at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. In an effort to better serve families, Grace Gardens has submitted an application for all-day preschool. Please pray for God's blessing on our preschool, and for His guidance as we go through this process.