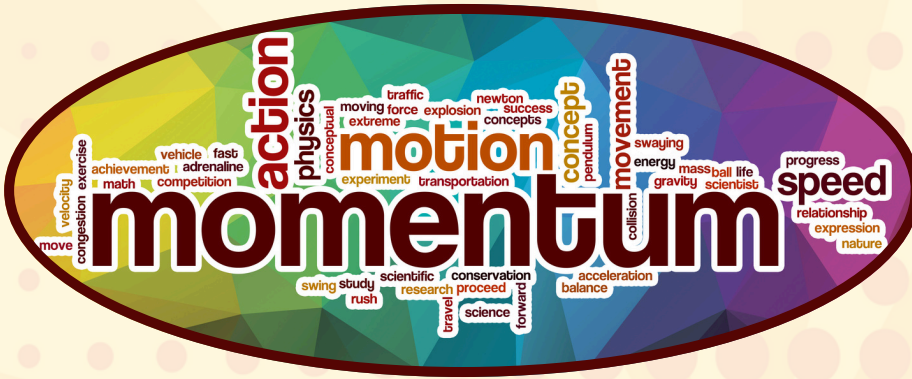


MAY 2024

# FAITH | ALIVE

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

-Proverbs 3:5-6

**Holy Spirit MOMENTUM!** As the Lord works in mighty ways at Faith Lutheran, we must acknowledge him on every step of this Jesus-shaped path. You can hear our congregational President talk about this **momentum** or read about it in the quarterly report on the resource page at [faithallin.org](http://faithallin.org). The Holy Spirit is moving and calling us to share the Gospel. This is a three-fold path of following Jesus closely, staying or getting connected with one another, and, as we are learning in our current sermon series, paying attention to the people we encounter. As we turn the corner into summer, more **momentum** is on the way.

Let's stay focused, staying on the path He leads;

Let's give sacrificially;

And, as the Holy Spirit moves, let's pray for more people to turn their hearts to Christ!

This month's newsletter will give you more ways to do just that!

DR. JERRY WATTS, SENIOR PASTOR

APRIL 2024 | QUARTER 1 (DEC 2023-MAR 2024)



Read the Quarter 1 Newsletter and watch our council president's report at [faithallin.org/resources](http://faithallin.org/resources)

# Say it Now, Say it Loud!

BY PASTOR MARK BEHENNA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

I know what you're thinking ... Easter came and went back on March 31st ... why is this pastor bringing us old news? Well, the OCD purist in me wants to tell the world that the Resurrection of Our Lord (the official title for Easter Sunday) is not celebrated on just that one Sunday, but fifty consecutive days of Easter rejoicing are ours. The final day of our celebration, as always, will be on the Day of Pentecost which falls on May 19th this year.

Easter-spirit and springtime weather lift our hearts and quicken our steps. The flowers, especially the Easter lilies, brighten our lives. All these things seem natural, connected, and essential to the rhythm of our lives. These things become so natural we begin to take them for granted. Regrettably, some Christians even take Easter (both the "big day" and the season) for granted ... after all, Easter comes every year just as surly as the coming of spring.

But take a minute. Think about just how bold a statement we make by celebrating Easter (both the day and the season). The Roman rulers and the Temple authorities confidently said that Jesus was dead. The laws of mankind had been carried out and the will of the religious leaders had prevailed. All the natural laws confirmed the intent of the leaders' work.

Then God's will became known. By His will the stone was rolled away and Jesus was loose in creation. Truth became known – Jesus is Lord! Jesus lives! God lives and is living among us in the person of Jesus Christ! This reality, this truth, defied the will of the powers of the earth. God's defiance of everything people thought they knew about their world rocked them – it shook them to their core. Even some of those who were closest to Jesus ran from the empty tomb in terror.

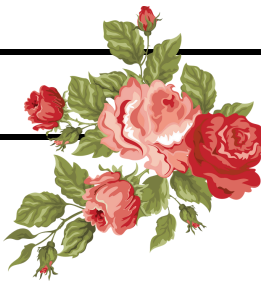
Sometimes we fail to appreciate the radical political statement we make when we profess the empty tomb. When we declare Jesus risen and raise our alleluias, we join the witnesses of the resurrection in defiance of "conventional wisdom" – the wisdom of people who presume to be in charge.

Conventional wisdom even in our time says that resurrection is not possible. Many, the majority perhaps, say that God is dead, or Jesus was not the incarnation of God, or that God never existed in the first place. The media presents us with learned talking heads who pronounce Christian belief (and religion in general) a "quaint superstition which has no place in the world of thinking people."

What do we say in response to such things? First, we do not condemn the authors of these statements. Instead, we live the Easter life. We proclaim Christ risen and relate what the original witnesses handed to us. We do our best to live lives in which Jesus truly is Lord and avoid the idolatrous tendency we all have to declare ourselves supreme (thereby raising ourselves to the level of a god). Finally and significantly, we make these proclamations publicly. We do this on Sunday during the Easter season, and we make this bold proclamation every other day of the week as well.

We are Easter people. We have been joined to Jesus' baptism, his death and resurrection, and we now live as God's children. This is the message at the heart of the Easter story. We are the storytellers. Let us love to tell the story, and despite the political voices which have been arrayed against the gospel in every age, let us proclaim loudly: "God is not dead ... He is risen!" Amen.

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



# May Birthdays

- 1 Luke Edwards, Emma Patterson
- 2 Nancy Farley, Natalie Trainor, Jessye Hopkins
- 3 Donald Braman Jr, Sharon Kunitz, James Thompson, Colton Mahoney, Layton Barela, Sarah Van Gilst, Grayden Hinkle
- 4 Dick Hedin, Kateari Weber, Jennifer Alcocer, Katie Caldwell
- 5 J.T. Schneider, Betsy Kraus, Oliver Stewart
- 6 Chisom Wilson
- 7 Nate Ritz
- 8 No Birthdays
- 9 Brad Gehrke, Dale Heincelman Jr., Lisa Frankland, Roger Wilder, Kyle Hendricks
- 10 Mike Adair, Andrew Ramirez,
- 11 Marlan Ball, Janene Groening
- 12 Kurt Lanes, Catherine Teel
- 13 Reija Lynch, Barbara Pierce, Adeel Khan
- 14 Seth Lanius
- 15 Jess Benson, Eric Harstad, Nancy Lewin, Max Strack
- 16 Kyle Lewin, Valerie Piper, Ellie Lehman, Georgette Smith
- 17 Deborah Elder
- 18 Jeff Doll, Charles Riney, Carl Zauche
- 19 Christian Dahlquist, Dennis Eilers, Susan Porter, Ronnie Covel
- 20 Mike Jay
- 21 David Elder
- 22 Elizabeth Zepper, Carol Mullen, Zarish Mall
- 23 Bill Kennedy
- 24 Cameron Mayo
- 25 John Zepper, Lenann McGookey, Margaret Hawn, Ronnie Covel
- 26 Curtis Goodfellow, Mike Kelly
- 27 Nancy Gwyn, Scott Porter, Charlotte Boyd
- 28 No Birthdays
- 29 James Beck, Eden Anderson
- 30 No Birthdays
- 31 Sydney Crow, Brandy Ansotigue, Michael Gadberry

**MORE GREAT READS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Mission Corner - 4
- Thank Yous - 5-6
- Financials - 7
- Church Council - 7
- Upcoming Events - 8



# 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



Faith Lutheran Church  
Attention: Ginni Webb  
10000 Spain Rd N.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

March 24, 2024

Dear members of Faith Lutheran Church,

As I write this letter to you, I am reminded during this Holy Week of Jesus's journey to Jerusalem and the Hosannas of Palm Sunday, to the arrest... trial... crucifixion... death and finally and victoriously the songs Easter. I pray that you may rejoice in this very meaningful time of the journey to Easter!

Also, a quick note to update you on the journey for the well drilling plans for the gift you have given to Friends of Madagascar Mission. We have a plan to work with Madagascar Water Project, a non-profit managed by Fred Rittelmeyer (a retired oil executive and geologist who worked in Madagascar and came back to help the people). I met with his representative in Madagascar in January to agree to a plan for the drilling. They have not been able to move the heavy equipment during the rainy season as the roads are in terrible condition. They had planned to begin drilling in late April but now there is another delay as they wait for a new air compressor to arrive in Madagascar. This piece of equipment is necessary as they are drilling through solid rock to get to the precious source of water beneath the rock. Below is a photo of this compressor. The plan is to begin drilling in June.



I will inform you when the equipment arrives at the well sites and a video will be made for you of the well being dug as a result of your financial and prayer support! Please pray for the safety of the equipment arriving, for the workers during the drilling and the people who wait in celebration of having a good source of water!

PEACE IN CHRIST!

The Rev. David P. Lerseth

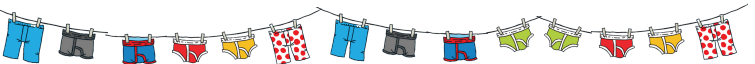
Your Mission & Service Ministry Team distributed Mission funds in April as follows:

**\$1,000.00 to Trinity HOPE:** The current situation in Haiti is very unstable, and our mission partner Trinity HOPE are doing their best to continue buying and providing the food that's so desperately needed. You can find out more about the situation by **clicking here**. At this time, please pray: especially for the safety of the children attending the Trinity HOPE schools, for the people that supply food and administer the feeding program, and the teachers that faithfully preach the gospel of Christ to their students, as well as all the Haitian people that are affected by the dangerous situation in this country. [trinityhope.org](http://trinityhope.org)

**\$1,000.00 to Friends of Madagascar Mission:** It has been about a year since our congregation became involved in the Friends of Madagascar Mission Living Water Project, to drill new wells and repair old ones in southern Madagascar. Here is the latest update from Reverend David Lerseth. [madagascarmission.com](http://madagascarmission.com)

## SARANAM LENTEN PROJECT UPDATE

In addition to all of the wonderful in kind donations made to Saranam for the incoming residents of the new Westside Campus, families and individuals from Faith Lutheran Church made monetary contributions totaling \$990.00. To God be the glory. [saranamabq.org](http://saranamabq.org)

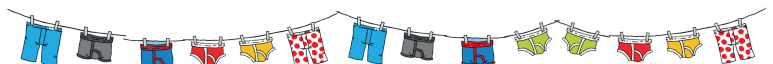


## HELP US STOCK THE SHELVES AT LOCKER #505

May 18 - June 1

**Brand New Underwear Bottoms**  
(Child Size 4 through 2XL Adult) and  
**New or "Like New" Jeans** (no holes please)  
For Boys and Girls,  
Elementary School - High School

Check the table in The Centrum with details beginning May 18th.



# Thank You

Dear Members of Faith,

Thank you for investing in the children and families of **Cuidando Los Ninos** with your gift of \$1000. 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. If you would like to take a tour to see your dollars at work email or call Ashley to schedule at [ashleym@clnabq.org](mailto:ashleym@clnabq.org) or (505) 843-6899.

We appreciate you being the voice, light, and energy that it takes to change lives.

Sincerely,  
**Ashley Martinez**  
Major Gifts and Public Relations Director



Dear Faith Lutheran Church Members,

We are very grateful for the work the Lord is doing through your congregation: transforming the lives of children, families, and villages; sending love, hope, and joy; and sharing the gospel in faith through your gifts to **Operation Christmas Child**.

Our team here in Central New Mexico collected over 17,000 shoeboxes! YAY! 2023 had the most shoeboxes collected and donated! The United States collected and donated 10,051,570 and worldwide 11,330,126. Great year!!

Your generosity enables us to continue sharing the love of Jesus Christ and the hope of the gospel. We praise God for His faithfulness as we look forward to another amazing year!

In Christ,  
**Marylynn**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 to **Roadrunner Food Bank**. Giving is a truly precious act, and your contribution makes it even more meaningful for families experiencing hunger. It's a lifeline for so many just trying to stay afloat and getting by day after day.

Meet Ryan. He is a high school student quite literally helping with the finances at home. Ryan is a senior this year and his family struggles a lot. Like other low-income students, he must work to contribute to the family. Unfortunately, the teenager lost his job when they couldn't accommodate his school schedule. He was worried and stressed about how they would eat. Ryan's job put food on the table for himself and his dad even though his dad works a full-time job, that barely covers the rent.

With the family in dire need, the school invited them to attend the monthly Roadrunner mobile food distribution at the school. Ryan said, "This food is such a tremendous help. I need it for my dad and me. I plan on attending each month. We can't do without it right now."

Now that Ryan and his dad have a little help with basic needs like food, the school told us Ryan has a lot less stress and can focus on school and graduation.

Your contribution has profoundly helped Ryan and his dad. It has positively impacted his education and his future in a way that means the difference between receiving a diploma or dropping out.

Thank you for acting. Thank you for investing in people who are trying to make their lives a little better at crucial moments that can transform their future.

In gratitude,  
**Will Tapia**  
Corporate Engagement Officer



Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Our "**Back to Basics AI-Anon Family Group**" is very grateful to you for allowing us to use rooms 3-4 in your facility for our weekly meetings on Sat mornings from 9:00 to 10:15am. Thank you so much!

**Catherine Rosul, Treasurer**

## Thank You *cont.*

To our Faith Lutheran Family,

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and admiration for each and every one of you! Your ongoing partnership plays an integral role in **Joni and Friends'** ability to transform lives and spread joy in his name.

Blessings,  
**Mary, Christy, and Marcy**  
**Joni and Friends**



Dear members of Faith Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of **Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM)**, I express our thanks to you for your gift of \$1,000 to support the Living Water Project.

Your great support is very much appreciated. The latest word I have heard is that the drilling of the new well sponsored by Faith will begin in June. I will keep you updated on the progress.

Peace in Christ!  
**The Rev. David P. Lerseth**



Dear Faith Lutheran Church,

Our "**Back to Basics Al-Anon Family Group**" is very grateful to you for allowing us to use rooms 3-4 in your facility for our weekly meetings on Sat mornings from 9:00 to 10:15am. Thank you so much!

**Catherine Rosul, Treasurer**

Dear Pastor Watts,

Because of your church, God's audible Word resounds—and more people hear the Truth for the first time. Thank you. Your partnership with **Faith Comes By Hearing** in our Vision 2033 goals is vital. Together, we will ensure Scripture is recorded in every language that needs it by the year 2033.

God and His Word bring light into the darkness. Celebrate with us in this testimony from Kenya.

At 73, Kumani lived in loneliness. Her husband had died, and her children were all grown and lived miles away. She depended on her neighbors for help around her home, as her age made it difficult to move around.

One day, Jira, a local Christian carrying an Audio Bible, visited. Kumani invited her in, and the two spent the afternoon listening to the Gospel and discussing what they heard. During this discussion, **Kumani felt hope for the first time in years.** Jira invited her to give her life to Christ, which she gladly did. The sadness and loneliness she felt dissipated, replaced by peace. Jira left the Audio Bible with her, and Kumani listens to it each day.

Your church makes an eternal difference in the lives of families and communities worldwide. Thank you again.

Serving Jesus with you,  
**Ann Williams, Church Engagement**  
1.800.545.6552 / 505.881.3321



Invite your  
friends,  
family, &  
neighbors  
to VBS!  
**June 3-7,**  
**2024**

Ages K to 6th grade / Morning & evening sessions  
Completely free and open to everyone!

# Financials

2024	Month of March	Year-To-Date as of 03/31/24	Year-To-Date Comparison of Offerings
offerings	\$186,299	\$543,853	
budget	\$141,286	\$423,858	\$119,995
expenses	\$189,085	\$436,802	\$107,051

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

## April 2024 Council Meeting Summary

This month's meeting included very positive financial news with some new spreadsheets for tracking the All-In initiative progress. Some opportunities for the congregation to interact more with the council will begin this month between services during Coffee with your Council. Also, forums to discuss possible changes to services are approaching so be sure to attend one of those! The council voted to allow each task force to spend up to \$5K without seeking their approval first and to appoint Hank Bohnhoff as the Legal Secretary of FLC.

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 | Jessica Anderson | Bill Dennis     |
| Doug Dederman, Vice President     | Rachel Archer    | Brady Gear      |
|                                   | Hank Bohnhoff    | Kaiya Phillips  |
|                                   | Jim Burrell      | Jennifer Wilson |

### MISSIONS SNAPSHOT: Children of Faith Coffee Outreach

Over the past several months, the Moms' Ministry has served up free coffee at Children of Faith during drop-off on Fridays. It has been a blessing to visit with COF parents, grandparents, staff, & children while offering hospitality from the church. We hope to continue to connect with and support our COF family as the Lord leads us.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Devon Edwards!



# Events & Announcements

## Hidden Treasures: Ancient Extra-Biblical Writings and Their Relationship to Our Faith

Saturdays, 6:30pm (potluck at 6pm)

Financial Peace University

Mondays, 6:30pm

## FeedNMKids Packing

Wednesday, May 1, 1pm in Rm 13

Men's Bible & Brew *May 7 & 21*

Moms' Bible Study *May 10*

Military Mission Support

May 13, 5:30pm

Lunch & Learn

May 16, 11am

## Kids & Families!

- Regular Sunday school ends **May 19**
- Faith Riders Kickoff! **May 29**
- VBS **June 3-7**
- Summer Sunday school begins **June 9**

May menu  for Wednesday nights

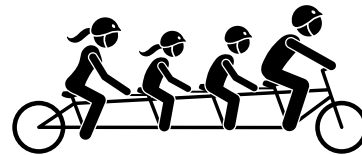
**LAST DAY**

MAY  
1

HAMBURGERS

Final day for Wed. night programs - May 1

 Faith Riders kicks off **May 29th!**



Join us for **Faith Riders!** Pizza, fun, and bike riding start at 6:30pm on May 29th - don't forget to bring your helmet! We have loaner bikes for use if needed.

## Lunch and Learn



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

**Thursday,  
May 16 at  
11:00am**

Join us as we welcome **Dominic Anderson!** He'll discuss what goes into a rescue operation.



# 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**

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## General News

### Recent Deaths:

- Shang-Ying Clark, wife of Tim Clark, on April 16th
- Al Lanting, husband of Sharon Lanting, on March 30th

### 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.

### 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.

### Listen to Church with your Landline

Listening to Services Over the Phone  
Please dial 1.833.531.1980

### 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](http://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  
10000 Spain Road NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111  
Ph. 505-296-0762  
Email: [faith@faithabq.org](mailto:faith@faithabq.org)  
Website: [faithabq.org](http://faithabq.org)

Current Resident or...

**Thank you Lord for:**

