



Faith, Culver



First, Meadowlands



St. John's, Saginaw



St. Peter's, Canyon



**MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM DAVE'S DESK**

As I ponder my newsletter article for December it seems like we just finished raking leaves and preparing our yards in anticipation of the first snowfall of the winter. We also anticipate the season of Advent, Christmas and the coming of the Christ child. Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas, and the word Advent is a Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival. It commemorates Jesus first coming at Christmas and anticipates his second coming as well. Christmas is a time that brings out the best in humanity, reaching out to those who have little or nothing as many of us look forward to Christmas celebrations, lots of good food and lavish gifts.

I'd like to share a story with you that points out the true meaning of coming together at Christmas: One morning in December 2009, Bill McDonald read in the paper that a local man, Joe Day, was sick with small-cell lung cancer. That meant Day couldn't assemble the magnificently lit, handcrafted Christmas displays that had made his home in Versailles, Indiana, an annual holiday pilgrimage site for as many as 95,000 people. Day made the decision 33 Christmases ago when he came home one afternoon from his job as an electrician and found his five-year-old grandson Nicholas waiting. "What do you want to do today?" Day asked. "Let's build a reindeer Papa," Nicholas said. They fashioned one using wood from a fallen tree, then set it out on the lawn and lit up its cherry red nose for the holidays. Each year, Day added to his handi-work, placing reindeer on a track above his roof and winding lights as if they were electric vines around his windows and doors. Eventually thousands of lights, figures, mannequins and models filled his yard and spilled onto his sister's property next door.

But not this year until McDonald thought, "It wouldn't be Christmas without Joe's lights.

Somebody has got to help this guy." So, McDonald called Joe Day and said, "You don't know me, but I want to help you get your lights up." Through word of mouth, McDonald and his wife enlisted the Knights of Columbus, the Masons, the Lions, local fire fighters, friends, and strangers to set up Day's displays. For 2 days, more than 100 volunteers climbed in and around Day's house and yard, following his hand drawn diagrams that showed where everything should go. On the evening of December 12, with crowds of volunteers cheering him on, Day flipped the switch and lit up the lights." This is what the Lord wanted us to do," says McDonald, "to pull together, and be together, and help one another."

As we celebrate this Christmas season and the coming of the Christ child, let us give thanks for all we are given. Let us reach out and spread the love of God to all who may need a helping hand, and the sharing of the Christmas message. Wishing all who read this the blessings of the Christ child, and a very Merry Christmas.

**In God's peace, Invite a friend  
- Minister Dave**

**~CLERGY SCHEDULE & CONTACT INFO~**

**Dave Erdmann, SAM** (Synodically Authorized Minister), is our worship & faith life leader.

**Days off: Mon & Sat.**

**He is *always* available for emergencies.**

**First contact: 218-391-7951 (cell)**

**Secondary number: 218-348-9720**

**Email: [dwerdmann@gmail.com](mailto:dwerdmann@gmail.com)**



~S.A.L.T. PARISH MEETING~  
Next meeting: Dec. 4th, 6:30p at Faith  
All are welcome!

### Newsletter Coordinator Wanted

Would like someone to help Christine transition out of this roll she has held for many years. It only takes about two hours of your time and a great way to help the S.A.L.T. Parish stay connected. Please reach out to Christine Wolvin if you would like to help.

Girl Scout Troop Meeting Dates at Faith from  
5-7pm  
Monday 12/8/25

Men's Breakfast, Dec. 18th, 8am  
Country Corner, Hwy 2, Brookston



SALT Parish and Community Women are invited to:  
Faith's WELCA Christmas Potluck Brunch  
5797 Hwy 7, Culver, MN.  
Wed. Dec, 10, 2025, 11:00 am.  
Bring a dish or treat to share, no gifts.  
Door prize, games, and fellowship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



SAVE THE DATE!!

### SALT Parish Cookie & Candy Sale

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00-1:00

Faith Lutheran Church, Culver

Cookies - \$5.00/dozen

Candy - \$3.00/half dozen  
or \$5.00/dozen

Pancake Breakfast

2 Pancakes, Sausage, Juice or Coffee  
\$5.00

3 Pancakes, Sausage, Juice or Coffee  
\$6.00

All proceeds will benefit SALT Parish Ministries

Cookie Drop-off Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00 pm

Share with friends and family, plan your holiday treats, great opportunity for a cookie exchange or gifts for your delivery drivers.

### ~CULVER QUILTERS~

If you would like to support our quilt ministry, our supply needs list includes Cotton Fabric (any sized pieces) Thread, Batting, Flat sheets (Dbl., Q or K size), Cash donations can be given to Faith's WELCA. Thank you!  
Culver Quilter's Meet Mondays at Faith 10:30am

~NEWSLETTER DEADLINE~ Deadline for the Jan. issue: 2nd Sun of Month: Dec. 14th  
To mail information to Misty: 1236 County Rd 4 Wrenshall MN 55797 Or email to: [Bergman.misty22@gmail.com](mailto:Bergman.misty22@gmail.com)

~RUBY'S PANTRY~

**5577 Cromwell Park Dr, Cromwell, MN**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month, Dec. 11th, 2025  
 9:00 – 10:30 am

**5007 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
 5:00 – 6:30 pm

**2300 E Skyline Blvd (Copper Top Church)**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month, Dec. 18th, 2025  
 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Bring your own boxes/baskets for food. (\$25) cash donation at the door is appreciated. Everyone is welcome!!! For more information call 651-674-0009 or visit [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org).

**Sunday Morning Livestream**

SALT Parish Facebook Page  
 10:30 am



Bulletins will now be available for The Livestream. The link will be posted on the Parish Facebook page or the bulletin can be accessed at [saltparish.org/bulletins](http://saltparish.org/bulletins)

**S.A.L.T. COUNCIL**

President | Amber Schwartz

Vice Pres. | Ginny Richmond

Secretary | Mindy Lindor

Treasurer | Misty Bergman

**Church Contact People**

Faith | Dale Neuman

First | Ginny Richmond

St. John's | Carolyn Collum

St. Peter's | Fred Zorn

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Editor:** Misty Bergman

**Website:** Beth Erdmann

**Circulation / Mailing Coordinator:**

Christine Wolvin

Thank you to our volunteer mailers!!!



**Blue Christmas Worship Service**

**“When Christmas Hurts”**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

**8:45 am Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

**10:30 am First Lutheran Church, Meadowlands**

This year, our annual Blue Christmas Worship Service will be part of our Sunday Morning Worship. This is a time for our Parish to come together in support of our members.

**Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion**

4:00 pm First, Meadowlands

7:00 pm Faith, Culver

The 4:00 Christmas Eve Service will be live streamed on the SALT Parish Facebook page.

*Merry Christmas to all!*

**Blessing for the Feast:**

Gracious God, we come before you with grateful hearts as we partake in this Christmas feast. Bless the hands that have prepared this food and the hearts that will share it. May the warmth of this meal remind us of your love, and may our fellowship be a reflection of the unity we have in Christ. Amen.

## Health & Wellness Page

### When Hope Feels Out of Reach

Our community has felt the weight of too many losses lately. Suicide is a tragedy that ripples far beyond the person who dies. It touches families, friends, workplaces, everything at the place we call home. It often begins with quiet suffering, feelings of hopelessness, or a belief that no one would understand. Most people who consider suicide don't want to die; they want the pain to stop. When we understand that truth, we begin to see suicide not as a moral failing, but as a human crisis that demands compassion, connection, and care.

No one is immune to struggle. Depression, trauma, addiction, or financial and relationship stress can make life feel unbearable. Yet too many people suffer in silence, afraid of being judged or dismissed. The reality is that talking about suicide and mental health does not cause it. It does open the door for hope. When someone confides that they're hurting, the most powerful response isn't advice or correction, it's just listening.

Each of us can play a role in prevention. Check in on friends who seem distant. When someone's tone or behavior changes, ask them how they are doing. Ask directly if they're thinking about suicide if you are worried someone is at risk because it's okay to use the word. Encourage professional help but also remind them that help doesn't have to start in a clinic; it can start with a simple conversation.

As a community, we need to turn awareness into action. Support local crisis services, advocate for mental health funding, and keep resources visible—on bulletin boards, social media, and in conversations. If you or someone you know is struggling, our regional crisis line is answered by a live person, 24 hours a day at 844-772-4724, or you can use the nationally based 988 because that's much easier to remember! Every single life matters.

Dani Spolarich LPCC LADC

Director of Crisis Services for Range Mental Health Center

### *The True Meaning of Christmas*

Jesus Christ was born this day  
So many years before  
We celebrate this joyous time  
Reflecting on His birth  
Not born in a mansion, but a stable  
He came so He could identify  
With the human heart of man  
And gave His life as a sacrifice  
Offering a better plan  
A plan that reconciles us back  
To our loving Father God  
Bringing hope and redemption from  
Sins ruling iron rod  
For this is the only reason that we  
Should celebrate this day  
To become focused on anything else  
Would take the meaning away  
So let's arise with joy in our hearts  
And share it with everyone

The meaning of Christmas will always be  
The birth of Jesus - God's son

