

# Rose and Spruce Church Newsletter

PARISH NEWSLETTER

## Questions?

“Grandpa what are you doing?” That is what my granddaughter Kylie asked me as she saw me at the kitchen table trying to start writing this newsletter article. Don’t you love questions, especially from young children? I do. As a teacher I love when people, young and old, ask what is on their mind. It got me to thinking, did Jesus ask questions and how many times did people ask questions of Him? One article by Pastor Zach Zehnder said that Jesus had 183 questions asked of Him and Jesus asked 307 questions in the Gospels. He made note of a vital truth: good listeners ask good questions. Jesus is the best example we can follow. He asked people not only to believe in Him, but to truly believe by following Him. Here are four good points that Pastor Zehnder made regarding Jesus asking questions....

First, Jesus asked curiosity questions. “How?” and “Why?” It is good for us to be more childlike in our questions and our faith. Indeed it is! Jesus didn’t have to ask such questions for He was Omniscient. He knew everything. He is fully God and fully man. Yet He asked such questions. His purpose was for us to grow in our faith. After all, our faith grows more in times of doubt and trouble than when everything is going peachy-keen-neato-dandy. Jesus asked questions to help us wrestle with our faith so that we may truly believe.

Jesus asked open-ended questions. He didn’t ask questions with just “Yes” or “No” answers. His questions required honest thinking before answering. They were meant to make a person ruminate on them and truly consider what it meant to their life. Questions like “What do you want?” or “Why do you call Me good?”

Thirdly, Jesus asked challenging questions. He went to the heart and didn’t shy away from tough questions. “Will you really lay down your life for Me?” and “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world but forfeit his soul?” It made me ask myself, “Do I as your pastor challenge you and myself enough?” Following Jesus is a challenge, a true adventure. It takes the strength that God supplies and the courage to ask the tough questions so we may face the seemingly insurmountable challenges that this life brings to us all. Will you not only believe in, but will you truly follow Jesus?

Finally, he noted that Jesus didn’t ask “when” questions. We seem to be wondering when things will happen all the time. Let me quote what Pastor Zehnder said as he pondered why Jesus didn’t do this....

Maybe “when” you live with an eternal framework as Jesus did, the “when” questions aren’t as important. The more you have certainty and confidence in who Jesus is and the promises He declared, the less critical our “when” questions are. All of the “when” questions we ask may seem important at the time, and I don’t mean to trivialize what we go through in this life, but “when” you already know the outcome, you don’t need to live with worry. God is in control. More important to Jesus than when things happen is who we are following and how we are growing. Check it out yourself. Check out Jesus’ questions by checking out His Word in this New Year of 2024. Also, may you and I be better listeners and ask better questions. What do you think about and how will you respond to Jesus’ questions? What will you allow Him to change in your life so that you may truly follow Him?

In Christ’s love, Pastor Todd

# Rose News

## Ministries

### Women

- WMF Bible Studies at Rose on *Monday, January 8*
  - Dorcas Group - 2pm
  - Ruth Group - 7:00pm
    - Hostess: Randi Gaukerud
    - Bible Study Leader: Debbie Erickson

### Men

- Men's Fellowship Breakfast*  
*Wednesday, January 3*  
First Baptist Church
- Speaker: Mike Dieter

"The steadfast love of  
the Lord never ceases::  
His mercies never come  
to an end.."

Lamentations 3:22-23

*Worship*

SERVICE TIME

10:30 AM



### Coffee Fellowship Servers

Sunday, January 7 | 9:30am

Jon Gaukerud, Brent Olson,  
Douglas Erickson & Mike Hass  
families



### Fellowship Meal Servers

Sunday, January 21

Carol Holland, Aaron Magnusson.  
Tim Wysocki & Josh Wiskow  
families



### Special Music Organizer

Gracia Nelson



### Ushers

\*Douglas Erickson  
Robert Mekash  
Isaac Erickson

# *The Scene at Spruce*

## *Worship*

SERVICE TIME

9:00 AM



## Fellowship Brunch Servers

Connie Nelson & Kellie Roth



## Church Cleaning

Ron Thramer & Daryle Dahl families



## Birthdays

3: Wyatt Kramarczyk  
6: Ron Thramer  
12: Sonja Heyen  
14: Troy Olson  
24: Ryker Kramarczyk  
25: Charlotte Erickson  
27: Tara Kihle

## *Ministries*

### **Youth**

Youth Group at Osweiler's on Sunday's at 6:30pm.

### **Women**

Spruce Mission Aid & Bible Study  
Wednesday, **January 10**, 2pm  
Hostess: Connie Nelson

### **Men**

*Men's Fellowship Breakfast*  
Wednesday, January 3  
First Baptist Church  
• *Speaker: Mike Dieter*

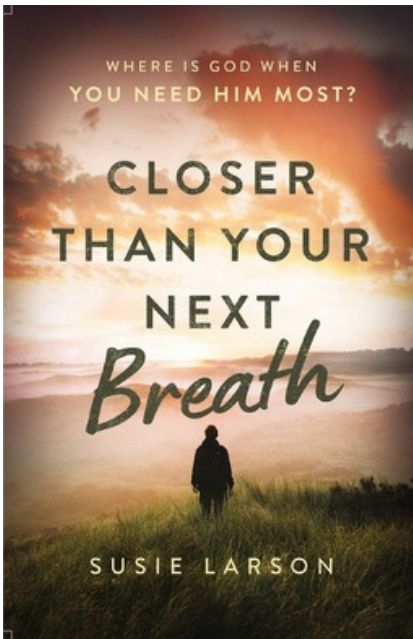
*"Be strong and take  
heart, all you who  
hope in the Lord."*

Psalm 31:24



# Opportunities For You

## Women's Bible/Book Study Starting



**Closer Than Your Next Breath**  
**Mondays at 6:30 pm at Rose**  
**beginning January 15**  
**Contact Joyce Erickson at**  
**218-242-2657 or**  
**[todjoyerickson@gmail.com](mailto:todjoyerickson@gmail.com)**  
**for more information**

Brent & Emily Raan  
Missionaries to Uganda



On Saturday, January 6, please join us  
for Potluck at 5 pm and at  
6 pm Brent & Emily will share.

Westaker Free Lutheran Church  
321 Minnesota Ave E  
Newfolden MN

GriefShare®

Grief recovery groups

**Join us:**

January 8, 2024 - April 1, 2024  
Mondays from 1:00-2:30pm  
OR 6:30 - 8:00pm  
Roseau Covenant Church  
1717 3rd St. NE, Roseau, MN, 56751  
Register online: [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)  
or call 218-463-3420

**GRIEFSHARE.ORG**



# Mark Your Calendar

## The Life I Now Live

A Theology for the Christian Life from the Catechism

Rev. Dr. Jason Gudim

Pastor of Faith Free Lutheran, Minneapolis



2024 Mid-Winter Bible Conference  
February 2-3

Badger Creek Free Lutheran  
202 Tamarack St., Badger, MN

Friday: 7 PM Session 1  
Saturday: 9 AM Session 2  
10:30 AM Session 3  
with lunch to follow

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*  
Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

Hosted by the Northwest Minnesota District of the AFLC