



THE MESSENGER

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life. John 3:16*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2021

*Faith's Mission is to reach people, young and old, who need Christ
in their lives, and to help them know, love and serve Christ.*



from the Pastor's desk

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This month, I would like to share a message about coming back to church after COVID.

As a preface, I have to acknowledge that the pandemic is still ongoing. And in fact, right here in Minnesota, we are currently experiencing yet another surge in COVID cases. For that reason, Faith Lutheran Church remains committed to taking all necessary precautions in order to keep our members and friends safe whenever we gather. I would like to emphasize that we still need to stay vigilant, as we head into the summer months. We are still wearing masks...we are still keeping a good 6' social distance between family units...we are still refraining from singing during worship. And we are keeping up, for now, the 10 AM radio program, so that those who wish to continue worshipping from home may do so.

Right now, many members and friends of Faith are joining us for our in-person Sunday morning worship. To those who are—it is a true highlight of my week to see you all, and I cannot tell you how much it means to me, to be able to worship with you, as the gathered body of Christ. Meanwhile, other members and friends of Faith are staying at home on Sunday mornings for reasons of safety. To those who are staying home—please know that I understand, support, and encourage your commitment to preserving your health, and the health of our community. Thank you for doing your part to get us safely through the pandemic!

But, sooner or later—and perhaps sooner!—the pandemic will recede to the point where it is safe for just about everybody to resume worshipping, in-person, here at church. When that day comes, I would like to encourage every member and

friend of Faith to come back to life together here at church. Don't stay at home, hunkered down in front of your screens. Don't let temporary pandemic habits become permanent patterns of isolation. When the time is right for you and your family, come, rejoin us, in-person, once again!

Why? A wise member of Faith said it best. In a conversation she shared with me a few months ago, this member said, ***"You need the church, and the church needs you!"***

"You need the church!" And that need is real. You need to hear the Christ-focused, cross-centered message of hope that we preach, Sunday by Sunday. You need to receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. You need to be uplifted and encouraged in faith by the prayer and worship of God's people. You need the face-to-face friendship, fellowship, and support of your brothers and sisters in Christ. You need to experience the reality of real life together within the Christian church. Yes, real life together within the Christian church can be messy and unpredictable. But ultimately, real life together within the Christian church is profoundly good. It is the way God meant us to be. We are not lone wolves, but sheep in a big flock. The Bible says, ***"It is not good that a man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18)***. You need the church!

And, "the church needs you!" Faith Lutheran Church cannot survive without the active participation of her members. Your offerings of presence, prayer, financial support, time, and talent are what allow this congregation to function. Music and worship, care of the building, Sunday school, putting on the Fall Festival—all of this happens through the volunteer efforts of the members and friends of Faith. If you don't show up, it won't happen! Our general operating funds and mortgage payments—virtually all of our financial resources are provided by the generous donations of members and friends. If you don't give, the bills won't get paid! Spreading God's Word within the local community, outreach to those in need, sharing the love of Christ with those who don't yet know him—these, too, are the works of members and friends of Faith. If you don't become a messenger of the gospel, who will? The point is this—if Faith is going to thrive in 2021 and beyond, the church needs you to be involved.

So, stay safe as you and your family navigate what we hope are the final months of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are staying home to stay healthy, I support you in doing so. But, when the time is right, make sure you come back to church. Come back to worship...come back to fellowship...come back to Bible study...come back to lend your prayers, presence, money, time and talent to the work of this congregation...come back to growing in faith, together.

You need the church, and the church needs you!

See you at Faith!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nichol

Building and Grounds Assessment

The church council is working on improving the building and property of Faith, and maintaining the facility. The council has done an external and internal audit of the building and grounds to see what needs to be repaired, replaced, or updated. Why? To provide a safe and clean environment, and to perform the ministry of God's work at the church through the upkeep and improvement of the church facilities.

You'll see some changes taking place in the next several weeks and months. The blue room has received a fresh coat of paint, thanks to many volunteers. One of the problems with that room has been noise and echo. Putting carpet on the floor is not feasible since the room is basically used for serving meals, plus it would be a huge expense. Fabric on the walls would facilitate sound absorption so we have decided to ask members to bring in homemade, smaller wall-size quilt hangings, baby quilts or lap quilts to display on the walls. Bring as many as you want. We will rotate the display every few months. If you're willing to share some of your beautiful artwork please give it to Gloria Colbenson or Lana Gilberts. Attach your name to the quilt.

With the expertise of an artist and decorator, colors for the green room are now being considered. If you would like to help paint, please let Lana or Gloria know.

As we work on other areas of the church like landscaping, gardening, painting, carpentry, etc. please consider offering your skills and expertise. Everyone is welcome to help improve our church facilities. It's the mission of the church council to keep God's house ready for his work through us.

Gloria Colbenson – Building & Grounds Chair

Monthly Financial Update As of March 31, 2021

	Mar 2021 Giving	YTD Giving	YTD Budget	YTD Spending	Mortgage Balance
General Operating	\$10,667	\$28,839	\$34,339	\$22,704	X
Building Fund	\$5,130	\$14,835	\$15,000	X	\$345,996

Church Council Minutes

March 18th, 2021

The Council meeting of Faith Lutheran Church was called to order by President Randy Havel at 7:01 PM on March 18, 2021. Other members present: Mark Gilberts, Jim Olsen, Gloria Colbenson, Pastor Paul Nichol, Kim Garberich, and Kerry Johnson.

Pastor Paul Nichol opened with devotions in sharing scripture from the Gospel of Mark. The scripture reminds us that we are followers of Christ through death, the resurrection and the glory forever & ever. Pastor Paul led us in prayer.

REPORTS:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Paul presented the monthly Pastor's report:

Submitted by Pastor Paul Nichol
Faith Lutheran Church
3/18/2021

- I. Pastoral acts, 2/19/21 to 3/17/21:
 - a. (4) Sunday morning indoor worship services; Holy Communion was observed on 2/21 and 3/7
 - b. (4) "Faith Lutheran Church Gospel Hour" programs broadcast on Sundays at 10 AM on KRWC 1360 AM
 - c. (4) Wednesday evening Lenten worship services
 - d. (1) baptism
 - i. Eva Mae Brecht (2/28)
 - e. (14) pastoral visits
- II. Sunday morning Bible study is ongoing. We finished studying Romans on 3/7 and began studying Mark on 3/14. Confirmation was extended through 3/24 to make up for pandemic disruptions. Distance Sunday school will continue through April. I am beginning to conduct more pastoral care on an in-person basis as vaccination becomes more widespread.
- III. Matthew and Laura Brecht (Adley and Eva) request to be received as members of Faith Lutheran Church by affirmation of faith.
- IV. Upcoming events:
 - a. Holy Week
 - i. Maundy Thursday worship (4/1): 7 PM (guest musician)
 - ii. Good Friday worship (4/2): 7 PM (guest musician)
 - iii. Easter Sunday worship (4/4): 7 AM (guest musician) and 10 AM
 - b. Vacation: 4/5-4/10
 - c. Confirmation Sunday: 5/2

Paul made a motion to receive Matthew & Laura Brecht (Adley and Eva) as members of Faith Lutheran and Kim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kim made a motion to accept the Pastor's minutes and Gloria seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Building & Grounds: Presented by Gloria

- Plans are in the making to paint the blue and green rooms. Lana Gilberts has expressed an interest in being involved with this.
- A long list of things to do or consider with the objective to declutter and go through each area of the church to clean, sort and remove items which are no longer of use. Supplies or items that can be passed on through the shoe box drive to be an option for some of these materials.
- The Youth Pastor's old office has been converted into a counting room. The room will have a new lock put on the door to minimize access.

Kerry motioned to accept Gloria's report and Paul seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Many thanks to Gloria for all her work in heading up the plans to meet the objectives as stated. She is well on her way. Thanks to those that have or will be helping her along the way.

Treasures Report: Pat was not able to attend this month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Covid:

1. Cases are on the climb and with the new variations of the virus, for the short term we will continue to stay the course. It is possible that we could be faced with a surge in cases.
2. Looking ahead we feel that soon we will have the virus in the rear view mirror so we will start to plan for getting back to as close to a normal worship as possible.
3. A tentative timeline was discussed for ending the radio program and resuming congregational singing.

Fall Festival: We are now planning for a fall festival with the scheduled day set for September 12th. Council members will now move forward in planning ahead. We look forward to the support of the congregation in making this another successful event.

Interior Walk-Through:

1. Rearrangement of space: A walk through was done on the interior of the church to identify the items to be removed or relocated.

2. Disposal of old/unneded property: Many items will be marked and set out for free to take home. April 18th we plan for this.
3. Current/future projects: Additional areas that need painting

Kerry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM and Kim seconded the motion and the motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted respectfully by Kerry Johnson



Birthdays & Anniversaries

God bless you on
your special day!

If you see a mistake or an omission, please contact the secretary so she can update the records:

763.878.2092 or
faithlutheran@tds.net.

Thanks!

- 2- Todd Roberts
- 2- Pete & Cindy Kissinger
- 3- Morgan Baxter-Knutson
- 3- Sharon Johnson
- 5- Rita Zierden
- 8- Jo Havel
- 11- Yvonne Hogie-Streich
- 12- Kim Landecker
- 14- Laura Brecht
- 17- Ralph & Karen Mason
- 23- LaVon Johnson
- 24- Pete & Robin Schmitz
- 25- Don & Yvonne Hogie-Streich
- 28- Chuck & Jenny Bray
- 30- Reid Hessig



A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

Directions: Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

Find a letter that's in  but not in . _____

“But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8, NIV

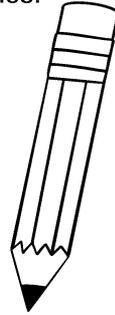


WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Jesus commands us to be his witnesses. This craft is a reminder to reach out to all our “circles.”

What you need:

- 5 bowls or cups (assorted sizes)
- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Brad fastener
- Crayons or markers



What you do:

1. Place the bowls and cups upside down, each on a different color of paper. Trace around the circles and cut them out.
2. With a pencil, pierce a small hole atop each circle. Layer circles on each other from largest to smallest, aligning the holes. Insert the brad through all layers.
3. Starting in the center, label the circles *my house*, *my city*, *my state*, *my country*, *the world*. Draw a picture on each one.
4. Pray, asking Jesus how you can spread his message.