



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

November 2023

*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

In the name of the risen and living God, Jesus Christ, to those who are called to be saints of Faith Lutheran Church and who call on the name of our Lord: Grace and peace to you.

Greetings one and all!

Things are heating up at Faith Lutheran! We are getting busier and busier. In looking ahead to the calendar, many things are coming up: Thanksgiving holiday,

Thanksgiving Eve Service at SCCC, All Saints Sunday, Pledge Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, a few baptisms, the season of Advent, more baptisms, and then, drum roll please, Christmas!

Are you ready and prepared for all that's coming? I hope you are. I must confess that I never am prepared. I seem to be a day late and dollar short as my mother used to say. But I keep trying.

And I am grateful. There are so many things to be grateful for, isn't there? It is so easy to count the things that are wrong in the world, in the community, and in your life. My Pastoral Internship Supervisor thought it was his "gift" that he was able to point out all the flaws in people and in the world around him. That was no gift because all of us can do that because it is so easy. Interestingly, he never took a look at himself. What is challenging is to see the good things. It is a gift not only to others, but it's a gift to yourself to observe others and then tell them what you see in them. It is challenging, yes, but it is so worth it to actually speak the words to another telling them what is good, what is positive, what is kind, and what is helpful, rather than the other way around.

So Faith Lutheran, I will take my own advice. I see what you do. I see the volunteering, and oh so much of it. There is helpfulness, kindness, laughter,

more laughter, and smiles. I see the service you perform and the manner in which you serve. You all do it with a smile, a nod, a spring in your step, and a twinkle in your eye. You all treat each other so nicely and with kindness. I am proud to be your pastor!

Thank you my friends. Thank you for being church together and touching so many lives in Monticello. Thank you for telling others that God loves them too!

Thanks again for all that you do for this church, for God, for others, for this community, and for Pat and me.

Until next time, God's peace and blessings to each and every one of you.

Your brother in the Gospel,
Pastor Scott

P.S. - Please invite one person to worship with you. They may need what you already have.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve worship service on Wednesday, November 22nd, at 7 PM at Silver Creek Community Church. We've had a tradition of a combined worship service with our friends from Silver Creek for a while, alternating hosting years. This year it is their turn to host. Hope to see you there!

"Praise the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures forever!"

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Please see the information table to sign up for all the ways to serve on Sunday morning. There's something for everyone!

- bring treats (homemade or store bought)
- help in the kitchen making coffee, serving & cleanup
- read the scripture lessons during worship
- greet people with a bulletin & take offering during worship



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us Saturday morning, November 4th, and invite your friends, dads, sons, and grandsons! We serve at 8:30 AM but you can come earlier for coffee and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table.



MITTEN TREE



A tradition started many years ago with a bare Christmas tree placed in the narthex to be covered by donations of mittens, gloves, and hats for elementary students in Monticello and Clearview. This is a good opportunity for us to care for the least of these little people right in our own community. Collection goes through the month of November. Schools are looking for lined, waterproof gloves and hats as well as unlined, scarves and socks.

HANDMADE ORNAMENTS

After the mitten tree, the bare tree in the narthex will be transformed with Christmas ornaments handmade by members of Faith. In November there will be a box of Christmas 3" clear bulbs for members and/or families to take home and decorate and bring back the last Sunday of November or Advent Sunday, December 3. The bulb comes apart in two pieces so you can paint the inside or outside, decoupage, fill it with decorative items or decorate the outside only. The ideas are limitless and be creative. If you have several ideas, feel free to take more than one bulb. Your work may stay anonymous or with the little piece of paper attached to the bulb you can put your name or initials on it. It'll be fun to see how creative our congregation is and provide a unique Christmas tree that everyone will enjoy seeing. For questions contact Gloria Colbenson.

ADVENT SERVICES

We're trying something new this year by having Wednesday night advent services. There will be dessert and speaker. Watch the December newsletter and church bulletins for more details.

To everyone at Faith Lutheran~

Thank You!

What a great surprise it was to see a wheelbarrow full of "stuff" being wheeled down the center aisle! It was so fun! There was some food in there that was not marked soooo thank you to whoever gave them. Thank you all so much, you are so kind, caring, and generous.

Blessings to all of you, my friends. Take care always and thanks again!

Pastor Scott Block



LUTHERAN TIDBITS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The First Petition: "Hallowed be your name."

Hallow means to praise, extol, and honor in both word and deed. How does God's name become holy and sacred among us? The plainest answer that can be given is when both our teaching and our life are godly and Christian. In this prayer we call God our Father and it is our duty in every way to behave as good children so that God may receive from us not shame, but honor and praise. God's name is profaned when people preach, teach, and speak in the name of God anything that is false and deceptive and using God's name to dress up lies. Likewise, God's name is profaned when people grossly misuse the divine name to cover their shame, by swearing, cursing, living an openly evil life, and doing wicked works.(Adapted from the Book of Concord)

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

MORNING:

Lord Jesus, you have made me a new creature through your blood. I confess to you that I am sinful, have evil thoughts, wicked desires, and sinful wishes. This evil is with me constantly and stops me from my best efforts to do your will. My conscience feels guilt and shame. I ask you to overlook my shortcomings and to help me in my daily struggle against sin. Strengthen me and grant me your holiness and righteousness. Make me purer in my desires, cleaner in my speech, and holier in my actions, so that I may be blameless in your sight and a shining light in the world. In your name, Amen.

EVENING:

O Lord, my help comes from you, who made heaven and earth. You have been my refuge and strength during this day, a very present help in time of trouble. As night approaches, I know you are my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Though I lay down to sleep, you never do. Spread your protecting hands over my home and the homes of my neighbors. Give to the sick restful sleep and to all who feel sorrow grant them your presence. You are who I believe in, my Lord Jesus Christ, who died for me. To you O God, I commit my body and soul for safekeeping. In Jesus name, Amen.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES September 28, 2023

Roll Call:

Members	Present	Absent
President - Kim Garberich	X	
Vice President/Buildings & Grounds - Kerry Johnson		X
Gloria Colbenson	X	
Mark Gilberts	X	
Treasurer - Patrick Zierden	X	
Lynne Crandall	X	
Council Secretary - Steve Lichtenberg	X	
Pastor Scott Block	X	

Proceedings:

- President Kim called the meeting to order @ 6:59 PM
- Devotions provided by Pastor Scott – “Galatian’s 2:19 & 20”

Reports:

Pastor’s Report:

- October 8th will restart the Children’s Message and Bible Study

Treasurer's Report: Pat provided and reviewed the August Treasurer's Reports

	August	July
Church Mortgage	\$228,160.69	\$231,401.46
Monthly Giving	\$7,833.80	\$8,552.02
Monthly Expenses	\$14,219.37	\$6,657.72
Monthly Giving/Expenses Difference	-\$6,385.57	+\$1,894.30

Primary August Giving/Expense Difference is due to buying and installing a new Air Conditioner and Hot Water Heater.

Motion made by Steve and seconded by Gloria to accept the Treasurer's Reports. Unanimous agreement by all Church Council Members.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

- Air & Heating Units for North End Chapel – Kerry Johnson is consulting with Mitch Hansen to discuss options.
- Upgrade the Thermostats to be the same model and include metal lock boxes to protect them. Pat made the motion, Gloria seconded the motion and the council unanimously agreed.

Old Business:

- Fall Fest Funds will be tabulated and reported on the October 2023 Council Minutes. The Funds are designated to pay for the Building Maintenance/Repairs (I.e. Air Conditioner, Hot Water Heater).
- Men's Breakfast – October 7th. Serving at 8:30 AM. Will have a devotion, fellowship, and plan for future presentations/activities. Bring your ideas! Contact Steve Lichtenberg to help make breakfast and set up the room. Kerry will make omelet's, Steve will provide the sides.

New Business:

- November Thanksgiving Eve Service – Invite Silver Creek Church – November 23, 2023 @ 7:00 PM.
- Christmas Eve Service Time – Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24th. A 3:00 PM Service will be conducted. Sunday Morning Service will not be held.
- Teen Challenge – October 29th Potluck.
- Winter Family Activity – Gloria is beginning the planning process. Thinking of holding the Outreach Program on Advent Wednesday Services – A Dessert Supper and Speaker will be included.
- Stewardship/Capital Campaigns – November 2023 – Pastor Scott will write and mail a Campaign Letter and Giving Cards will be included. Please fill the cards out and return them to the church as they are used to develop the church budget for 2024!

Adjourn:

Pat made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 PM. Mark seconded the motion. All members present approved. The meeting ended with the Council Members praying the Lord’s Prayer.

October 19, 2023

Roll Call:

Members	Present	Absent
President - Kim Garberich	X	
Vice President/Buildings & Grounds - Kerry Johnson	X	
Gloria Colbenson	X	
Mark Gilberts	X	
Treasurer - Patrick Zierden		X
Lynne Crandall	X	
Council Secretary - Steve Lichtenberg	X	
Pastor Scott Block	X	

Proceedings:

- President Kim called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM
- Devotions provided by Pastor Scott – “Psalm 62:8”

Reports:

Pastor’s Report:

- Pastor is providing “Faith Reflections” on the Faith Lutheran Website.
- Sunday morning Bible Study has recommenced.
- The Sunday School Bulletin Board is up.
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service is scheduled for 7:00 PM on November 22nd at the Silver Creek Church. Pastor Scott will preach.

Treasurer’s Report: No Treasurer’s Report available.

Buildings & Grounds Report:

- Kerry will work with Matt to establish a snow plowing contract.
- Shopping for Thermostats to update and unify all thermostats to be the same model.

Old Business:

- Thanksgiving Eve Service – Silver Creek @ 7:00 PM on November 22nd.
- Advent Services (Invite Silver Creek) Lynn and Gloria working on the Advent Services – Anticipating having two speakers and a light Dessert following the services.
- MN Adult/Teen Challenge – October 29th – They will arrive at Faith at 9:10 AM to set up for the 10:00 AM Worship Service. A Free-Will Offering will be collected following the service.

New Business:

- Goals/Challenges for 2024 – Will hold a congregational meeting following the February 4th Worship Service to hear ideas from the congregation. Council Ideas are the following:
 - Community Meal.
 - Backpacks for Kids
 - New Carpet for the Narthex and Hallway
 - Drive-By Root Beer Floats
 - Quarterly Vacation Bible School
- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 21st following the Worship Service.
- The Outreach Program is scheduled for February 18th and will include a Speaker and Potluck after the Worship Service.
- Stewardship/Capital Campaign is scheduled for November 19th – Pledge Card Sunday.
- Sign-Up Sheets for Kitchen Help will be in the Narthex. Looking for help to provide a simple treat/coffee following the Worship Service with help cleaning up afterwards.
- Kerry Johnson and Mark Gilbert are the Leaders of the Nominating Committee. The Council Delegates include – Vern Garberich, Bonnie Gibson, Linda Bergenzer, Harlan Hanson.
- A Motion was made by Gloria and Seconded by Lynn to place and hold three blank checks in the Church Safe for President Kim to fill out and sign to provide for Council Members Expense Reimbursements. Approved by all Council Members.

Adjourn:

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. Gloria seconded the motion. All members present approved. The meeting ended with the Council Members praying the Lord's Prayer.



5- Vern Garberich
5- Samantha Soriano
6- Craig Hiemstra
7- Kelly Jarmuzek
10- Gary Carlson
11- Lenore Johnson

12- Shawn Stavlo & Elysia Littlefield
16- Marcia Schut
19- Tim & Phyllis Gillham
23- Delores Lanz
25- Joyce Johnson
27- Laurie Steffens

God bless you on your special day!