



THE MESSENGER

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

THE NEWSLETTER OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2025

*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.

Easter is fast approaching. The time seems to go so fast and the yearly "holidays" come around faster and faster and faster! Maybe it is just me, but it seems that way. Does time advance quickly for you too?

I am looking forward to Easter. This winter has been sort of tough on me. Not that it has been brutally cold or the like, but it has been long. And I have been fooled again. We were given a hint of spring and summer weather just recently. One day it hit a whopping 75 degrees! For sure that meant spring was coming.... right? Well, we were fooled and we jumped back into the cold and wind. In any case, I'm ready for spring. We just "sprung" our clocks ahead one hour, maybe the weather will spring ahead too.

I keep hanging on knowing it will end....eventually. And I have hope it will. I will keep my head up and look for signs of resurrection from the dead. I see the swans and geese are moving back into town, standing around on the lakes that have not yet thawed. People are wearing shorts and tanks. These are sure and certain signs spring is coming.

This reminds me of what Jesus Christ has done for us. He has taken us out of the hard, long winter and brought us to green new life. Not only is it a metaphor of the seasons, but it is a metaphor for our lives. What a contrast these things can be. From cold to warm. From brown to green. From flake to drop. From death to life.

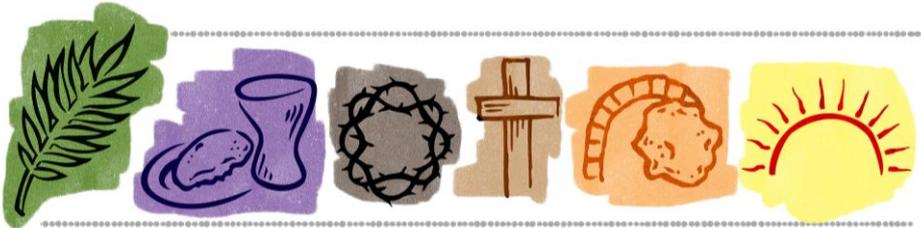
Let us give God thanks and praise for this. Jesus has done a great work. He has forgiven us and brought us out of death into life and given us a sure and eternal hope, a steadfast anchor of our soul. He does this not only every spring, but more importantly; he did this for you and for me. He will call us up out of the grave to stand in full view once again.

Once again, until next time, Happy Easter to you and your family. God's peace to you.

Your brother in the Gospel,
Pastor Scott

P.S.: Please invite one person to worship with you on Sunday. If you did, OUR ATTENDANCE WOULD DOUBLE!

PALM SUNDAY April 13th: Worship 10 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 17th: Seder Dinner 5:30 PM
Worship 6:15 PM
GOOD FRIDAY April 18th: Worship at Silver Creek
Community Church 7 PM
EASTER April 20th: Worship 10 AM



Holy Week

SEDER DINNER

Sign up on the info table by Sunday, April 13th for our annual Seder Dinner before the church service with communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17th. This year we invited Silver Creek Community Church also. Invite your friends! Dinner starts at 5:30 PM with worship at 6:15.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

We have tulips and lilies available for purchase as part of our Memorial Garden on Easter morning. If you would like to purchase and dedicate a plant, please see the information table in the narthex for instructions and order forms. At printing, we had 3 tulips and 4 lilies still available.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly men's breakfast is taking a break until this fall. See you then!



LUTHERAN TIDBITS

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther (1483-1546) was born in Eisleben, Germany. He initially studied law at the University of Erfurt, but later became a monk.

He was a German theologian and religious reformer who ignited the Protestant Reformation by challenging the Catholic Church's practices, particularly the sale of indulgences, and advocating for salvation through faith alone.

In 1517, Luther published his "95 Theses," a list of arguments against the Catholic Church's sale of indulgences, which he famously posted on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Luther's actions sparked the Protestant Reformation, a period of religious upheaval and reform in Europe.

Luther believed salvation was achieved through faith in Jesus Christ alone, rather than through good works or sacraments, a concept that challenged the core tenets of the Catholic Church.

For his views, Luther was excommunicated by Pope Leo X in 1521 and declared an outlaw and faced capital punishment.

While in exile, Luther translated the Bible into German, making it accessible to a wider audience and contributing significantly to the development of the German language.

Luther married the former nun Katharina von Bora, and they had six children.

Luther's teachings and writings laid the foundation for the Lutheran Church and influenced the development of other Protestant denominations. His legacy continues to shape religious and political thought today.

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:

My Heavenly Father, I thank you through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, that you kept me safe from all evil and dangers last night. Save me, I pray, today as well from every evil and sin, so in all I do and the way I live will please you. I put myself in your care, body and soul and all that I have. Let your Holy Angels be with me, so the evil enemy will not gain power over me. Amen.

A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR A NEW DAY:

Almighty God, I have risen to face another day. I pray I might be your servant and not fall from your grace. I have no fear of obstacles because you are walking with me. Let me honor and praise you for any success and share with you any disappointments. Guide me safely home in the evening so I might reflect on this glorious day and look forward to another with you. Amen.

A SIMPLE PRAYER BEFORE DINNER WITH GUESTS:

Dear Father, we thank you for the food you have given us and the joy of having guests to share our meal. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR FAMILY:

O God, I thank you for my family. You have created us and brought us together. Help us to learn how to share your gifts of love, grace, and forgiveness with one another. Bless our relationships so we in turn bless others when we venture into your world. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



Thanks to everyone for all their hard work for our soup suppers during Lent. You are all so generous, bringing food, sharing it with all of us, and then cleaning everything up.

*Thank you all so much!
I sincerely appreciate all you do here at Faith.*

Pastor Scott

WRIGHT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION -WCCA

If you, or someone you know, needs help with: understanding health insurance options, free tax preparation, food, WIC, Head Start, energy assistance to help pay a bill, or weatherization of your home, and more, talk to WCCA. There's some brochures & info on the table in the narthex. They also need volunteers so perhaps partnering with them may result in you doing some ministry!

CONTACT: WCCA, 130 W. Division Street, PO Box 787, Maple Lake, MN 55358.
For help or more info: Jay Brenny, 320-963-6500 ext 233 or jbrenny@wccaweb.com.

THE POWER OF PAUSE Gloria Colbenson, council president

I think of the nature of "pause." It is pause that gives a speech its power. It's the space, the physical pause, between individuals that can hold tremendous excitement and dramatic tension. Will they reach out to each other? Will one of them turn away?

There is something mysterious that is created in the space of a pause.

Nature takes a glorious pause in winter. Seeds lay dormant, trees drop their leaves, their sap runs downward, and fields lay quiet.

A human pause can involve a great deal of physical activity. What makes it a pause is the silence and solitude that accompanies it, like transformations bud force and bring us to new levels of understanding.

Let's take Lent for an example. Lent is a time to pause, repent, and take an overall look at your faith journey. How many people are you serving? What "aha" moments have you had that you could help someone? How many people have you prayed for and with? Do you get my drift?

Everyone needs to take time for a pause to regroup your thoughts, actions and life. Think of Christ Jesus on a three day pause from Good Friday to the resurrection on Easter Sunday. A fresh new start. A new beginning. A new life. Take the challenge and think about where you need to take a pause. Focus on where you need to be on your spiritual journey and life itself. Reflect the heart of Jesus with your caring ways and discipleship.

Walk humbly with our Lord during the remainder of Lent, upon the palm branches, through Holy Week. Then be ready on Easter Sunday to celebrate that Christ has risen, a day to pause and reflect. Silence and solitude is the greatest gift you can give yourself.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 20, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Scott Block, Gloria Colbenson, Lynne Crandall, Emilie Greb, Preston VanSchepen, Connie Wischnack

Members Absent: Pete Kissinger, Patrick Zierden

President, Gloria Colbenson called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Pastor Scott opened with a devotion from John 14:27. We discussed how as Jesus discussed physically leaving the earth, his disciples on earth, they felt scared and anxious at the thought of no longer living with Jesus. However, Jesus assured them that while he would no longer be physically present, he would leave them with peace, joy and love. Even though Jesus is not physically present with us on earth, today, he wants us to feel his presence through a sense of peace and joy.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Scott received an e-mail with a 50% discount on banners and bought some new banners for the church.
- Pastor Scott has gotten good feedback on the Holden services with Nooma videos. People enjoy the music, especially. Soup suppers are going well. We have had plenty of food with 29 people being served last week. Others come for the service but do not take part in the supper.
- Sunday morning Bible study is going well. The group has been having a good time and learning a lot. The study focuses on "Who are we as disciples." Pastor Scott has ordered part 2. Now that we know "who we are" part two will focus on "What do we do" as disciples.
- Pastor Scott has been posting devotionals on Facebook as well.
- Pastor Scott spoke with Pastor Jedidiah at Resurrection regarding Riverfest on July 13th. Resurrection is trying to get several churches together to do Feed My Starving Children mobile pack. We discussed donating the soup supper money to this and possibly asking members of Faith if they would like to volunteer. We may also get a group together to volunteer at FMSC in Coon Rapids at another time.

Treasurer's Report: Patrick was not present but sent his report ahead of time.

- Giving is slightly down from this time last year.

Connie made a motion and Emilie seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

Building and Grounds: Pete was absent but sent some notes prior to the meeting.

- The furnace and air conditioner replacement will take place this spring before the cooling season.
- He received seven window panes from Marvin Windows which he has stained and varnished and will replace next week. Since the window seals failed within the 20 year warranty period, Marvin will replace them free of charge. He also received a test spray to check the remaining windows that were put in with the new church addition. Pete is looking for volunteers to help.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Festival: The Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, September 7th. Cash donations are appreciated to help with the food costs.

Church Website: Emilie and Gloria have not done much as far as the website. Gloria is going to talk to Jana and see if we can work with what we have. If we go with ChurchCo, it is a \$400 commitment, and we are locked in for a year. Pastor Scott said we pay \$300 for what we have now.

Safety Policy: Preston spoke with Jana who found a 20-page document discussing background checks. Preston will continue to work on this.

Committee Descriptions: Gloria is still working on this.

Soup Supper/Seder Dinner: Soup suppers are going well. Silver Creek Community Church will join us for the Seder dinner on Maundy Thursday. Gloria does not have numbers for them. There are signup sheets for attendance and food donations for the Seder dinner in the back of the church.

Epilepsy Fundraiser: We decided to skip this year and revisit next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Revising the Church Mission Statement: The church is looking to update the mission statement, vision statement and logo. The key is to decide who we really are, pray about it and see where God leads us. Once council narrows down a few options we could possibly bring it to a church vote.

Pizza Party: We will do an end of the year pizza and bowling party for the kids.

April meeting will be on April 24th due to Maundy Thursday. Connie made a motion and Preston seconded to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Greb- Secretary



APRIL

birthdays & anniversaries

- 14- Amy Hanson
- 22- Rick Kramer & Penny Spitzer
- 25- Leroy Gramsey
- 25- Anthony Soriano
- 27- Kerry Johnson
- 30- Ray & Kathie Baxter-Knutson

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!

*grow
in
grace*

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 PETER 3:18. NIV