



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

May 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.*

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.

There have been some tough times lately. So much terrorism, shootings, civil strife, and some deaths of people we know and love. There have been times when I said, "there are just too many funerals."

But it is Easter time and Easter brings hope. I think what we ALL need is HOPE. Wouldn't you agree? I mean, gosh, in times like these, what else could we need but hope?

Without hope, life is more difficult. Without hope, it can be hard to get out of bed in the morning and find strength to make it through the day. Without hope, it can be hard to just smile.

The Psalms are a good place to not only find "lament" but to find "hope" as well. In Psalm 39:7 we are told, "My hope is in you." Psalm 39:81 tells us, "I hope in your word." Other places in the Bible like Proverbs 23:18 lets us know that, "Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off." And the best news of all, where we can finally put all of our hope is, Hebrews 6:11 which tells us we have "the full assurance of hope until the end."

This great hope, the hope above all hopes is Christ and him alone. Jesus Christ gives it to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. This hope is really something. It is not something you can make up on your own. It's not a wishy-washy hope. It's not a hope where we might say "I hope it doesn't rain today, because it would ruin the picnic." This hope is a mighty hope. It is an active

from the
PASTOR

hope. It is the assurance that no matter what, God is with us. Since Jesus broke the chains of death and walked out of the grave, we have hope. It is a hope that trusts in God no matter what the circumstances of your life are, even in the valley of the shadow of death. It is a hope that gives you a sure and certain confidence, and nothing can take it away. That is great hope!

May God grant you this hope. May you have it deep in your heart, way, way, down in your soul, and planted firmly in your mind. May it never be taken from you.

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!

SUNDAY SERVANTS

Please stop by the info table in the narthex and sign up to be one of our “Sunday Servants”. There’s a place for everyone to use their gifts! You could:

- **GREETER:** Say hello to everyone & hand them a bulletin as they enter for worship. Also take offering during worship.
- **READER:** Read the scripture lessons out loud during worship.
- **TREAT PROVIDER:** Bring four dozen goodies for fellowship time after worship. They can be store-bought or homemade! ***You do not have to serve them,*** just bring them & hand over to kitchen. If there are Sundays with just coffee, that means nobody signed up to bring treats. And everyone knows we Lutheran’s like our sweets!
- **TREAT SERVER & CLEANUP:** Make coffee, serve the goodies provided by the “treat provider”, & clean up the kitchen after.

If you have not signed up before, I encourage you to do so as each of us is called to use our unique gifts. If you’re unsure of what a position entails, ask Pastor Scott or one of the council members. We are grateful for your stewardship and use of your time and talents to serve God and the body of Christ.



TAKING A SUMMER BREAK

Wrapping it up this month and taking a break until September:

- May 4th – last day of Sunday school
- May 18th – last day of Sunday morning Bible study
- May 22nd – last day of Women's Thursday morning Bible study

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:

Almighty and merciful God, you once again have defended me this night so that I have lived to see yet another day. For that I give you thanks and praise. Let all my doings and my will match yours. In your great mercy, forgive me the miserable sin that accompanies me. Govern me with your Holy Spirit so all my efforts, heart, intellect, desires, and thoughts, all my words and works, that I might understand which is pleasing to you. Help me with your divine love and the power of the Holy Spirit, for the sake of your dear son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:

I thank you O most mighty God, that you have graciously protected me throughout the day against all injury and evil of body and soul. Do not forsake me on account of what I have done with my heart, mouth, or whatever else against you and your commandments. Forgive my wrongdoing and restore to me hope in your salvation that you have purchased for me by the blood of your son, Jesus Christ. Shelter me this night and protect me against all evil which seeks to hurt me. I pray I may rest and sleep securely under the shadow of your goodness and mercy. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

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.

A huge shout out to Pete Kissingner for replacing all the “leaking” windows in the church! He did such a great job contacting Marvin Windows, getting replacements ordered, staining them and installing them. Thanks again Pete!

Thanks to all who worked on the Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday!
Thanks to those who prepped, served, and cleaned up. We couldn't have pulled off such a huge success without everyone's help.
Thanks everyone!

Thanks to all those who helped with the Lent Soup Suppers!
It was so great to see everyone pitching in. The food was great and the company greater! Thank you all so much.

~ Pastor Scott



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Due to the council meeting falling on Maundy Thursday, it was rescheduled to Thursday, April 24th, after the newsletter deadline. The minutes will be printed in June's newsletter and posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

MOTHERHOOD

Gloria Colbenson, council president

She holds her baby in that recognizable fashion which mothers worldwide do. It's that cradling method needed for an infant. It's that natural, instinctive motion to the female gender of our species. She looks adoringly at her baby. It's that fixated, starling look much like the statues and paintings, one has seen of the Madonna and child. She smooths her hair that has surprisingly appeared. She straightens and smooths the wrinkles from the little pink dress as her fingertips caress the baby's legs, stockings and shoes.

She clutches her baby close to her chest as if protecting it from some unseen and unknown enemy, or perhaps the cold and the unwelcome weather conditions or maybe it's just the possibility of an underlying and deep-seated love. But all the time she looks longingly and lovingly, experiencing her baby's features. The two of them lost in the moment and shutting out the world about them. Wordlessly, breathlessly, she is in the presence of her newly arrived infant. This is the perfect love of motherhood. At this wonderful moment, there are visions of hours of caring, of kissing, of feedings and many bedtimes together. Her baby is exactly what she wanted.

The years passed so quickly as the mother watches her child grow up. During those years over and over the mother reminds the child eat every scrap! Go pick up your things! Turn that radio down! Do your homework! Sit up straight! No, you're not going and that's final! And in the middle of the night the mother will wake up the child and the child asks, "Why did you wake me up, Mommy?" And she says, "I forgot to say, "I love you!"

The child has now left home to start a life of their own. You reminisce of the years of love, laughter, award presentations, school events, sleepovers, giggles and the wildlife pulled out of your child's pockets, snakes, worms and lizards. You think to yourself how wonderful motherhood is. And just when you think your job is done, your child announces you're becoming a grandma!

Psalm 139:13-14: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I Praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."





- 2- Pete & Cindy Kissinger
- 3- Sharon Johnson
- 5- Rita Zierden
- 11- Yvonne Hogie-Streich
- 11- Zachary Soriano
- 12- Kim Landecker
- 14- Laura Brecht
- 20- Brian Marx
- 23- LaVon Johnson
- 24- Pete & Robin Schmitz
- 25- Don & Yvonne Hogie-Streich
- 28- Chuck & Jenny Bray

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!

CHURCH (AND PASTOR) HUMOR

These two "church jokes" remind me of the time here at Faith when I was handed \$1 bills at the sanctuary door! A very funny time with lots of laughter!

~ Pastor Scott

A young girl attended church with her grandmother for the first time. Before the service began, her grandmother gave her a \$1 bill to put in the offering plate. When the ushers passed the offering plate, the little girl didn't put the money in it. When her grandmother asked why, the little girl said, "My dad says you don't have to tip if you don't get good service."

After the church service, a little boy told the pastor, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." The pastor asked, "Why is that?" The little boy replied, "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers he's ever heard."

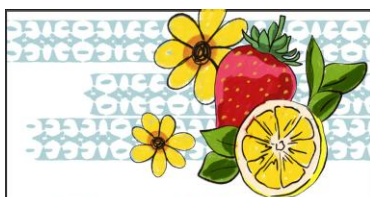


Thank you for all the help with the Seder dinner!
If you brought food, decorated, set up, cleaned up, did food prep,
served food and helped welcome our visiting church,
Silver Creek Community Church,
I appreciate you all!!

It was a huge success!!! It was a meaningful start to the
Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service and
celebration of the risen Christ on Easter Sunday!

Also a huge thank you to everyone who brought food for soup supper
and the kitchen help! We had a good turnout this year with an
excellent variety of soups and good fellowship.

~ Gloria Colbenson



Teatime treat



Make these sweet sandwiches
for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



PUZZLE

A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.



WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is _____ with strength and dignity;
she can _____ at the days to come.

She _____ with wisdom,
and faithful instruction is on her _____.

She watches over the affairs of her _____
and does not eat the _____ of idleness.

Her _____ arise and call her blessed;
her _____ also, and he praises her:

"Many _____ do noble things,
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is _____eptive, and be _____ty is fl _____eting; but a
woma _____ w _____o f _____rs the Lo _____d is to be prais _____d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV

Answers: clothed, laugh, household, bread, children, husband, women, Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30, NIV