



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

June 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.

As we move from the "white" Easter season into the long, "green" season of Pentecost, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on what these church seasons really mean and why they matter to our daily lives as followers of Jesus.

Easter isn't just a day; it's a season. Fifty days of celebration to remind us the resurrection of Jesus wasn't a one-time event with no lasting consequence. It's the beginning of new creation and a promise death does not get the final word. The risen Christ still lives and reigns today.

In the weeks following Easter Sunday, we've heard again the stories of the risen Jesus. Like how he meets his disciples in their fear, how he opens the Scriptures, how he breaks bread with them, how he sends them out. He does the same for us. He meets us, speaks to us, feeds us, and then sends us. The resurrection is not something we observe from a distance. It's something that changes us in the nearness, in the right now.

Then comes Pentecost. Pentecost is not the end of the Easter story, it's the continuation. The same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now breathes life into his Church. The Holy Spirit doesn't come to make us feel more spiritual. The Spirit comes to preach Jesus. The Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth. In other words, the Spirit continues the work Jesus began, through you, the disciples of Jesus.

That's why the season after Pentecost is marked by the color green. It's a symbol of growth, of life, and the Spirit's work in and among us. This long stretch of Sundays is sometimes called

from the
PASTOR

"Ordinary Time," but there is nothing ordinary about life in the risen Christ. Week by week, we're formed again by Word and Sacrament. We grow. We falter. We're forgiven. And we press on.

As Easter turns into Pentecost, remember this: Christ is still risen, and the Holy Spirit is still working. In our worship, in our serving, in our daily vocations, and even in our weaknesses, God is still forming his Church, still calling us deeper into the life he gives us as a free gift. Thanks be to God.

Once again, until next time, 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!



Splash of Fun
summer event for ladies of all ages

Invite your friends & neighbors to join us
for a time of great food, fellowship, games and a message!

DATE: Wednesday, June 11th
TIME: 6 PM
LOCATION: Silver Creek Community Church
Sign up by Wednesday, June 4th

Janet Saksa will join us to speak about
"If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat!"

Door Prizes & Free-will Offering
Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church and Silver Creek Community Church

SAFETY PROCEDURE MANUAL

Safety is the first concern in any organization and that includes churches. The council is working on a safety procedure manual for Faith. We have guidelines in place, but need to update and expand on issues facing current times. If you have any experience in building safety, we need your help! There's a signup sheet on the info table. Questions, talk to Preston Van Schepen.

MEET YOUR CHURCH FAMILY: A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMING!

Our new church directory is on the horizon! This valuable tool will help us get to know each other, and strengthen our connections within the church family. The directory will include your name, contact information and a photo. You may have your picture taken at church or submit a photo of your own. No hunting pictures or pictures with guns. Must be appropriate for a church directory. We encourage your participation so we can all benefit from this resource. We're doing this in-house instead of with a company to save costs. We need people to take pictures, type info, proofread, and bind the final project. If you would like to help with this directory, please sign up on the info table. Let's make our church a place where everyone feels see, known, and connected! Join us in making this new directory a success! See Gloria Colbenson if you have question.

LCMC 25th ANNUAL GATHERING

Are you looking for a faith-filled Christ-centered workshop? We're looking for another delegate to attend the LCMC 25th annual gathering and convention October 3-8 at Hosanna Lutheran Church in Lakeville MN. We send two delegates and Jenny Bray will be one of them going. Your registration is paid for. There are numerous worship services, great music, speakers, workshops to attend and lots of food. The theme this year is "Our Help and Hope." If this is something that interests you, please contact Pastor Scott, Jenny Bray or Gloria Colbenson. We need to know by July 10 to get the early bird registration. Talk to Jenny Bray about carpooling.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, August 2nd: Pie & Ice Cream Social 6:30-8 PM

Sunday, September 7th: 40th Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 12th: Teen Challenge and Potluck Dinner

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

The Monticello ministers have an opportunity for the community to serve others Riverfest weekend, Sunday, July 13th at the Monticello High School. A mobile food pack from FMSC will be there to pack meals for children in need. They will need 500 volunteers to pack 100,000 meals. If you're interested in this event, RSVP to Resurrection Lutheran Church by calling 763-295-5511. Come and unite and serve our community together!

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.

"Thank You" from Pastor Scott

A huge shout out to all those who helped with the Ken Brevik funeral. I was proud of all of you! Everyone pitched in and made it a success. Thanks so much for all the volunteering, serving, and hard work to help this family in their time of need.



LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

A PRAYER FOR THE MORNING:

O Lord, my God and Father, I give you thanks you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Grant this day I fall into no sin, nor run into any kind of evil, but that all my thoughts, words, and deeds may be ordered by your Holy Spirit to the glory of your Name. Strengthen me against temptation, guide me in my calling, and preserve me in true faith. Let Christ, my Redeemer, be my shield and refuge, that I may serve you with joy. Through Jesus Christ, your dear Son. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:

O merciful God, I give you thanks you have graciously brought me through this day. Forgive me all wherein I have sinned and fallen short, whether in thought, word, or deed. Cover me with the righteousness of Christ, my Savior, and grant me peaceful rest beneath your wings. Defend me from the assaults of the devil and the terrors of the night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angels be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

LUTHERAN TIDBITS

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

One of the most pastoral and powerful teachings in the Book of Concord is the Lutheran understanding of repentance. It's more than feeling sorry. It's a turning: away from sin and toward Christ. The Augsburg Confession describes repentance as having "two parts: one is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin; the other is faith, which is born of the Gospel" (AC XII).

This is key. Lutheran theology insists repentance isn't complete until it moves from sorrow to faith in the promise of forgiveness. The Apology to the Augsburg Confession is even clearer: "Faith in Christ is to be added, that sins may be forgiven, and that the conscience may find peace" (Ap. XII.45).

We don't simply wallow in guilt or try to make ourselves better. We bring our sins to the cross and hear the Word of absolution, that Christ died for us. That forgiveness is personal and sure, and it brings comfort no law could ever give.

Lutherans also reject the idea that repentance must be measured by human works or punishments. As the Smaller Catechism teaches in the section on Confession: "What is confession? Confession has two parts. One is that we confess our sins. The other is that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself."

In short: repentance is God's way of clearing the old and giving new life. It's not our work, but his mercy, delivered again and again.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 24, 2025

President, Gloria Colbenson, opened the meeting at 7:02 pm. All members were present. Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report: We had 129 people attend Easter Sunday services. The soup suppers were a success. Thank you to the many people who provided food and kitchen help to make the soup suppers go smoothly. The Seder dinner was well attended and successful as well. Pastor Scott put up new banners for Easter. May 18th will be the last day for adult Bible Study. May 4th will be the last day for Sunday school. Gloria and Pastor Scott took Jana to lunch for administrative assistant appreciation day.

Building and Grounds: A new inspection revealed that our roof was damaged by hail last summer. A revised report will be submitted to the insurance company for reevaluation. This will satisfy the July deadline. Pete did touch up painting of all interior church walls. Remind people to use caution when using stick pins to put up temporary posters which put holes in the walls

which eventually need to be filled. Pete fixed the coat rack that had fallen. Pete stained and installed seven windows which Marvin was willing to replace after 20 years. Pete also did a leak test on the remaining windows and didn't find any sign of failed seals. Two more theater lights in the sanctuary need to be replaced. Pete was able to find fuses on Amazon but is searching for bulbs. For now, there is still enough light in the sanctuary. Wright Hennepin did a security inspection in March and everything went fine. A new furnace and air conditioner were just installed in the old section of the church. It is a heat pump so it will save on natural gas costs.

Treasurer's Report: We have four months of mortgage payments in reserve. Cash assets increased by \$5300. All bills have been paid. We have plenty of money to cover expenses. We will transfer \$14,500 out of savings or the Edward Jones account to cover the cost of the furnace. We have \$29,000 in year to date giving. Giving is usually up on the first and the 15th of the month as well as holidays. Giving to the building fund is up while general giving is down. Connie made a motion and Pete seconded a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Old Business: Haley Henke would be willing to work on the church website. If we switch website companies, we need to make sure it will be compatible with online giving. We decided to have Haley see if she could make improvements on what we have with Word Press before switching to ChurchCo. We will continue to revisit the website.

Gloria put together a list of committee descriptions. We need to decide which committees are obsolete and which need to be added.

Several mission statements and logos were discussed. We will continue to discuss these and come up with ideas to present to the congregation. We also need to revise our vision statement and will continue to look at ideas.

New Business: Ken Brevik's funeral will be held on Saturday, May 10th. The family will provide food and people to work in the kitchen. They are also bringing extra chairs, tables and plant stands. The visitation will be from 9:00am to 11:00am with the funeral at 11:00am.

The Sunday coffee kitchen helpers asked if they could get approval to purchase a second kitchen cart with the coffee donations. Lynne made a motion and Preston seconded to approve up to \$220 for a new kitchen cart. Pastor Scott said the funds could come from his discretionary fund if there wasn't enough coffee money to cover.

Pete made copies of the church constitution for everyone. Discussion was had over whether updates and changes should be made at this time. We will continue to revisit.

Silver Creek township clean up day is May 3rd if the church has anything to bring.

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, May 15th. Lynne made a motion, and Connie seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pastor Scott closed with the Lord's prayer.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

May 15, 2025

All members were present with Gloria joining the meeting remotely. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Pastor Scott opened with a devotion and prayer.

Pastor's Report: Sunday school is over. The Sunday morning Bible study is ending on May 18th and the last day for the women's Bible study will be May 22nd. Pastor Scott shared a letter received from another Faith Lutheran in Hartwell, Georgia who is praying for us. The Brevik funeral went well. 400 people attended and 200 people stayed for the service and ate.

Treasurer's Report: As of the end of April the bill for the new HVAC was still outstanding. We are down \$13,600 in cash with the majority being for the new HVAC system. We have \$4900 in the checking account. We invested \$65000 in the Edward Jones account year to date. Giving is slightly down from last month. We are within \$100 of giving year to date from last year. Giving is always down during the summer months. Basket giving goes down but automated online giving usually stays mostly consistent. \$4200 was given last month for the building fund. We have four months in reserve. General fund giving year to date is down and building fund giving is up since the first of the year. Options to promote Vanco (online giving) were discussed as it may be something people don't know about and a way to keep summer giving consistent. Lynne made a motion, and Connie seconded a motion to approve the treasurer's report.

Building and Grounds: The doorbell is not working. Pete acknowledged Leroy for all of the work he does at the church. Leroy fixed a men's bathroom toilet and replaced the toilet in the old bathroom prior to the Brevik funeral. The roofing contractor will send their report to the insurance company and ask them to send another inspector in order to appeal the claim denial.

Secretary's Report: Pat made a motion and Pete seconded to approve the April minutes with the change from propane to natural gas.

Old Business: Will table discussion on the website, mission statement and logo until next meeting.

We have about \$800 from soup supper and seder dinner offering. We decided to give one third each the Monticello food shelf, Clearwater food shelf and the Share program at Resurrection. Pat made a motion and Emilie seconded to approve this.

We will revisit next month but work on putting together a safety committee. Lynne will start putting out sign up sheets for fall festival in June. The pork chops have already been donated.

Anna said the kids were not interested in a year end party but wanted to know if that money could be used to get a petting zoo and pony rides for the kids at the fall festival. She knows someone who could do this. However, they charge

\$250 per hour with a three-hour minimum. Gloria will work with Anna to finalize details. Pete made a motion and Connie seconded to approve using the Sunday school end of year party funds for pony rides at the fall festival. We also agreed to pay Anna \$250 for her work as Sunday school superintendent for the second half of the year.

New Business: Cremations and DIY funerals are increasing. We will put together a committee to meet before next council meeting to revise our current funeral brochure including fees and policies.

The LCMC convention is in October. Jenny and Chuck Bray were voted as delegates. Chuck is not able to go but Jenny is still interested. The church will pay \$250 each (\$500 total) for two delegates to go. We need to find a second delegate. Anyone who may be interested should talk to a member of council. Gloria is going to try to put together a committee to work on ideas for the church directory.

Silver Creek Community church will be hosting a women's event on June 11th and inviting the women at Faith Lutheran. We will start advertising and fliers will be posted.

The pie and ice cream social will be on Saturday, August 2nd.

Pat made a motion and Connie seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 19th.

Respectfully submitted, Emilie Greb- Secretary



- 4- Kim Garberich
- 4- Leroy & Robin Gramsey
- 8- Doug & LaVon Johnson
- 8- Harrison Hanson
- 10- Dane & Barb Hasbrouck
- 10- Nolan Hanson
- 11- Jesse & Kayla Pesola
- 13- Lynn Sandbakken
- 14- Connie Lounsbury
- 23- Jerry & Tami Foote
- 24- Debbie Wendt
- 26- Pete Schmitz
- 29- Vern & Kim Garberich
- 30- Bob & Rose Burggraff

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!