



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

March 2026

*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.

March always feels like a hinge month. One foot still planted in winter, the other testing the ground of spring. Snow piles shrink and daylight lingers a little longer. In the church year, March often places us squarely in Lent, which means the readings, the hymns, and the prayers invite us to slow down and look honestly at our lives before God.

Lent is not about proving our spiritual toughness. It is not a self-improvement project with ashes and purple paraments. Lent is about truth telling. It gives us space to say out loud what we usually keep tucked away, our impatience, our worry, our pride, our fear, and our habit of trusting ourselves more than we trust God. The scriptures do not flinch from naming sin, and neither should we. But Lent never stops there.

Every confession we make is met by a promise already spoken. God does not wait for us to clean things up before showing mercy. In Jesus, mercy has already come looking for us. The cross we keep in view during Lent is not a symbol of shame we must earn our way past. It is the place where God meets us fully, honestly, and without conditions. Jesus does not stand at a distance from our brokenness. He steps directly into it.

As your pastor, I am walking this Lenten road too. I feel the tug between wanting Easter joy right now and knowing there is wisdom in staying with the season we are in. Lent teaches patience, listening, and to receive rather than achieve. That lesson never gets old, at least not for me.



March also brings signs of hope. We will feel energy returning as spring approaches. These are small resurrections, little reminders that God delights in making all things new, often quietly, often gradually.

My prayer for you this month is simple. May you be honest before God. May you rest in forgiveness you did not earn. And may you trust that even now, even here, God is at work bringing life where you least expect it. Lent will not last forever. Easter is coming. And God is faithful to you every step of the way.

Your brother in the Gospel,
Pastor Scott

P.S.: Please invite one person to worship with you on Sunday. If you did, just think what would happen!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast meets the first Saturday of the month. They serve at 8:30 AM but you can come earlier for coffee and fellowship. Join us Saturday morning, March 7th, and invite your friends, dads, sons, and grandsons! There's a signup sheet on the information table.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Lenten soup suppers continue through March. Sign up on the narthex table to bring soup and other food items. Kitchen help is always appreciated!

SEDER DINNER

One of the most important annual events at Faith is the Passover meal. This powerful biblical holiday of Israel's deliverance from Egypt is a prophetic picture of our own deliverance from slavery to sin. God wants us to always remember this story. He wants us to always reflect on His love for us and that He gave His Only Son so that we can be free.

Everyone is invited to the Seder dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd. The meal begins at 5:30 PM with the church service and communion at 6:15 pm. Watch for the signup sheet on the info table to RSVP, food donations, and kitchen help. Deadline to RSVP is Wednesday, March 25th.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

We have eight tulips and eight 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 complete instructions and order forms.



The secretary's office hours are now Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM – 2 PM.

KITCHEN HELP

Could we please get some help with the kitchen on Sunday mornings??

At our last church, we had a schedule for bringing treats, serving & cleanup. We had two families per Sunday. Our secretary made a 6-month schedule. If we could get 20 families to help, then over the 6 months they would ONLY be helping twice!

If you know you have something going on just let her know before she made the schedule. Kevin & I would usually go on vacation in Feb. or March so she wouldn't schedule us then. You could also ask to be put with other family or friends. We liked it because she would put us with different families, allowing us to get to know different people in the congregation.

On the list we would have the two families assigned to that week with each of their phone numbers. You can bring whatever you like. There are usually about 50-60 people each Sunday. Husbands can help too! I've heard some of the husbands are great cooks also! Once the schedule is set, if something comes up you are responsible for switching with someone else.

If you're nervous about making coffee, someone usually makes the first pot and there are instructions on the counter! There's always someone to ask!

I hope you will have fun with this and get to know new people in our congregation!! There's a signup sheet on the info table.

Please come and talk to me about any questions!

Connie Wischnack 612-396-4384

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

MORNING:

God of light and mercy, you wake me again by your grace, not because I earned this day, but because you give it freely. You call the sun to rise and you call me to trust your promises. As I step into the work and conversations ahead, steady my heart. Quiet my fear. Where I try to justify myself, remind me I am already justified in Jesus. Where I rush ahead, teach me patience. Let your word shape my thinking and your mercy shape my actions. Keep my faith anchored in Christ alone, and let my life reflect the freedom you give. Amen.

EVENING:

Faithful God, the day now fades and I place it back into your hands. You know what went well and what did not. You know the words I regret and the worries I still carry. I do not hide them from you. I rest instead in your forgiveness, spoken clearly through Jesus. Let my failures drive me not to despair, but to trust your mercy again. Guard my body through the night and quiet my restless thoughts. As I sleep, keep me rooted in your promises, confident not in my faithfulness, but in yours. Into your care I rest. Amen.

A great big "thank you" to this congregation and especially to those who served at Laurie Poach's funeral.

You (the congregation) knew Laurie was not a member of Faith but a member of the community of Monticello. And you opened the doors of the church for her family to give her a memorial service. This made a big impression on the family, and they told me so. They were so very grateful and thankful.

Thanks again Faith Lutheran, and what a kind, generous, and caring congregation you are!

*Blessings to all of you!
Pastor Scott*



LUTHERAN TIDBITS

One quiet but deeply grounding teaching in *The Book of Concord* comes from the Augsburg Confession, Article VII, "The Church." At first glance it sounds simple, almost modest, and maybe that is the point. The Church is defined not by power, popularity, or perfection, but by two gifts God promises to deliver faithfully: the gospel preached purely and the sacraments administered rightly according to Christ's command.

This matters more than we often realize. The reformers were writing in a time of chaos, accusation, and division. Everyone was claiming to be the true church. Instead of building a long checklist or defending an institution, they pointed to where Christ chooses to be found. The Church exists wherever sinners hear the good news of forgiveness in Jesus and receive his gifts in tangible ways. That definition is both humbling and freeing.

Article VII also gently dismantles the idea that the Church must look uniform everywhere. Human traditions, ceremonies, and customs may differ. They always have. Unity does not depend on matching practices, but on shared trust in Christ's promise. This is not theological laziness. It is theological confidence. The Church stands because God acts, not because we organize perfectly.

There is comfort here for weary believers and weary pastors alike. When the Church feels fragile, when attendance dips, when disagreements rise, this confession pulls us back to the center. Christ is still speaking. Christ is still giving himself. The Church does not survive by our cleverness or effort. It lives because God keeps showing up through his word and sacraments.

That means the Church is never merely a building or a brand. It is a living, forgiven community gathered by grace. Quietly. Faithfully. Week after week. And God calls that enough.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 19, 2026

In attendance: Pastor Scott Block, Gloria Colbenson, Lynne Crandall, Kim Garberich, Emilie Greb, Pete Kissinger Preston VanSchepen, Connie Wischnack, Patrick Zierden

Gloria Colbenson called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Pastor led us in prayer and a devotion from John 21:17. He discussed church leadership as being those led to feed and lead (not judge, sort or change) Jesus' sheep.

We welcomed Kim Garberich as the newly elected council member and Lynne Crandall, elected for a second term.

Pastor's Report:

- Ash Wednesday was yesterday.
- The Laurie Poach funeral was on Monday. The family appreciated our church opening its doors to them and welcoming them. Thank you to all who gave of their time to help with this funeral.
- Pastor appreciated the week off and thanked those who covered for him during the service.
- We will order tulips and lilies for Easter.
- Pastor ordered preprinted funeral bulletins to save money.
- We cancelled the service agreement on the second copier machine service contract for \$20 per month. Toner is \$68 if we need to replace it. However, the copy machine company representative estimated based on our rate of use and that the amount of toner we have now the cartridges should not need to be replaced for a few years.
- We have been having issues with Cor Trust not receiving the credit card payments on time and charging a late fee even when sending three weeks in advance. Going forward, Jana will deliver the payment in person to make sure they receive the check and we are not charged fees going forward.
- Pastor will contact Carrie at Resurrection to get an idea of what we need to set up as far as technology for the TV monitors in the front of the church. We also need to purchase TV's.

Building and Grounds:

- Leroy changed over the water heater, so the hot water works better.
- We are still waiting on the roof inspection whenever the weather is warmer and the snow is off the roof.

Treasurer's Report: Patrick gave the treasurer's report. Kim made a motion and Connie seconded to approve the treasurer's report as read.

Elections: We elected officers and committee chairs: Kim Garberich, President; Pete Kissinger, Vice President; Emilie Greb, Secretary; Patrick Zierden, Treasurer; Pete Kissinger, Building and Grounds; Connie Wischnack, Stewardship; Preston VanSchepen, Music and Worship; Lynne Crandall, Fall Festival; Kim Garberich, Vacation Bible School

OLD BUSINESS

Annual meeting minutes: Council members reviewed and noted changes and corrections to annual meeting minutes. Emilie will make changes and submit it to Jana.

Soup Supper: We decided offerings collected for the Lenten soup suppers will go to the Monticello and Clearwater food shelves.

Stained Glass Cross: Gloria has been meeting with the designer. We are still on track to have this ready by Palm Sunday. We will need help to put it up when it arrives.

Church Directory: The church directory is now finished. Copies are sorted by family and on the table outside Jana's office.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Festival: The date is set for September 13th.

Pastor Scott closed with the Lord's Prayer. Kim made a motion and Preston seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emilie Greb, Secretary



- 1-Paul Pfuhl
- 19- Vicki Witschen
- 20- Gloria Colbenson
- 22- Rose Burggraff
- 22- Cindy Hoglund
- 25- Doug Johnson
- 28- Linda Bergsten
- 28- Pete Kissinger

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!



These cheerful “palm trees” make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

March 29th

Worship 10 AM

Maundy Thursday

April 2nd

Seder dinner 5:30 PM

Worship 6:15 PM

Good Friday

April 3rd

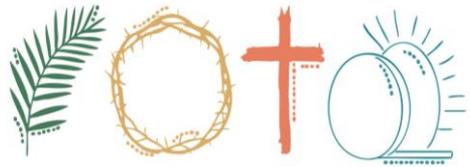
Worship 7 PM here with

Silver Creek Community Church

Easter

April 5th

Worship 10 AM



A lot can happen in
seven days.