



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 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.

April is a welcome sight around here. After a long winter, it is good to see the snow retreat, the days stretch out a little more, and the first signs of spring show up in the middle of all the brown. The geese are back, the birds are busy, and before long the fields will start turning again. In Minnesota, spring does not always arrive with much hurry, but when it does, it feels like a gift. Maybe that is one reason Easter fits so naturally in this season.

We need the reminder of new life, because life can wear a person down. As your pastor, I know many of you carry a great deal. Some of it is visible, and some of it is known only to the Lord. There are concerns about health, family, planting and planning, work, bills, aging parents, wayward children, and the quiet griefs people carry for years. Even faithful people can get tired. Even strong people can feel stretched thin.

And right there, into real life as it is, comes the good news of Jesus. It is not a made-up hope, or wishful thinking, or advice to just try harder. The good news is this: Jesus Christ was crucified for our sins and raised from the dead. He has done what we could never do for ourselves. He has taken our sin, defeated death, and opened the way to everlasting life. Because he lives, forgiveness is real. Because he lives, hope is steady. Because he lives, we are not left to carry our burdens alone.

That is what the church is given to speak, again and again. Week after week, we gather to hear what God has done for us in Christ. We come



with empty hands, and he fills them. We come with troubled hearts, and he speaks peace. We come as sinners, and he gives mercy without measure.

I treasure that as your pastor. It is a joy to walk with you through the seasons of life, and to keep pointing you to the One who does not change. The world shifts. The weather shifts. Our lives shift. But Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

So as April unfolds, with muddy driveways, thawing fields, and the smell of spring in the air, stay close to the promises of God. Come to worship. Hear the gospel. Receive the gifts of Christ. The risen Lord is with his people, and that is reason enough for hope. Thanks be to God.

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!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

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.

SEDER DINNER

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.

EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who purchased tulips and lilies for our memorial garden. You may take your flowers home with you after Easter worship.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast group that meets the first Saturday of the month is taking a break for the summer. They'll resume meeting in the fall.

PLAY GUITAR OR PIANO?

If you or someone you know would be interested in playing at Sunday Worship, let us know. It would be nice to be able to give Sandy a break once in a while. If you know someone who plays guitar or the piano/keyboard, please be so kind as to ask them if they would help out on Sundays. Thank you so much!

LUTHERAN PRAYERS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

MORNING:

Lord Jesus Christ, here at the start of a new day, I thank you for keeping me through the night and bringing me again into the light. Govern my heart by your Holy Spirit, so that I do not wander into sin, pride, or careless words. Let your holy Word dwell richly in me and guide my thoughts, work, and speech. Give me diligence in my calling, kindness toward my neighbor, and patience in every trial. When I am weak, be my strength. When I am anxious, be my peace. Keep me steadfast in faith, for you are my Savior and my Lord always. Amen.

EVENING:

Merciful Father, the day is now ending, and I place into your hands all I have done, left undone, spoken, and thought. Where I have sinned, forgive me for the sake of Jesus Christ, who bore my guilt and gave me peace with you. Where I have served faithfully, receive my thanks, for every good thing comes from your gracious hand. Guard my home through this night. Give rest to the weary, comfort to the troubled, and hope to those who mourn. Let your holy angels watch over us, and grant me quiet sleep, trusting in your mercy for tomorrow also. Amen.

LUTHERAN TIDBITS

One helpful topic from *The Book of Concord* is the place of civil authority in the Christian life. In the Augsburg Confession, Article XVI, and again in the Apology, the Lutheran Reformers make it clear that government, courts, laws, military service, and public order are not dirty or unspiritual things. They are gifts of God for the good of the world.

That mattered in the Reformation era, because some people claimed a Christian should withdraw from ordinary public life, as if faith meant stepping away from government, legal responsibility, or civic duty. The Lutheran confessors answered plainly: Christians may serve as judges, soldiers, officials, jurors, or rulers, and may take part in the responsibilities of public life. These callings belong to God's ordering of this world.

At the same time, the Reformers draw an important distinction. Civil government can restrain outward evil and protect peace, but it cannot forgive sins, create faith, or make a person righteous before God. Only Christ can do that. Only the gospel can do that. So the state has real authority, but it is limited authority.

This is still a useful reminder. Christians are free to serve faithfully in their communities, vote, hold office, work for justice, and support good order. None of that earns salvation, but it does serve the neighbor. In other words, Lutheran teaching does not pull believers out of the world. It sends them back into it, trusting in Christ, while loving the neighbor in practical, everyday ways. That is a sturdy, grounded, and deeply comforting teaching.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

March 19, 2026

Members Present: Pastor Scott Block, Kim Garberich, Lynne Crandall, Emilie Greb, Pete Kissinger, Preston Von Schepen

Not Present: Patrick Zierden, Connie Wischnack

President, Kim Garberich called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Pastor Scott led us in prayer and shared a devotion reminding us that the church belongs to Jesus and not to us. As a council we learn best when we remember that Christ leads the church through His word.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Scott thanked everyone for their support and helping him move.
- Due to inclement weather, services were cancelled on March 15th.
- Pastor Scott, Preston, and Pete met with Kerry from Audio Visual Electronics company. We learned that we have two microphones that are not up to code and need to be replaced.
- Pastor Scott made a hospital visit.
- We will host Silver Creek Community Church for Good Friday worship.

Building and Grounds:

- Since the Umpire has been selected and the weather is getting warmer, the roof inspection should happen soon. Pete will follow-up and try to get an ETA.
- Pete is working on putting together a safety report. He would like to put together a committee for this and has a few people who have expressed interest. We also talked about keeping the sacristy door unlocked during worship and solutions to having the music equipment blocking a fire exit in light of the new safety plan.
- Pete will look at two walls that Vern Garberich noticed need repair.
- The old cross will be taken down and the new cross put up on the 30th and 31st.
- Pete will also fix the cords on the blinds in the sanctuary that hang too low and are a safety concern.
- Pete will install frames for the church safety plan in the next few weeks.

Treasurer's Report: No report since Patrick was absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

World Vision Update: Kim was able to cancel monthly deductions to World Vision. They thanked us for our generous donations since 2009.

Church Directory: This project is complete. Gloria Colbenson has received positive comments regarding the design and pictures.

TV Monitors and PowerPoint: From the meeting with Pastor Scott, Pete and Preston, Kerry from Audio Visual Electronics will put together a quote which we should receive in the next two to three weeks.

Stained Glass Cross: The cross should be ready on March 31st. Leroy Gramsey is coordinating volunteers to take down the old cross and put up the new cross. We are open to ideas as to what to do with the old cross. Since there is no place in the building where it will fit, it was proposed to put it outside against the storage shed so it is visible from 127th Street. We discussed doing a dedication on the Sunday following Easter.

Seder Dinner: Gloria Colbenson is coordinating this again on Maundy Thursday. It has been well received in years past. We have invited Silver Creek church to attend the dinner with services to follow. Signup sheets for the dinner, food donations and kitchen help are in the narthex.

NEW BUSINESS:

Counting Assistant: Kim Garberich does this every Sunday and would welcome help with this or someone to alternate Sundays. Some have already expressed interest. Two people per Sunday are needed.

Fall Festival Update: Lynne Crandall already has someone to do the pork chops. Gloria Colbenson has secured the petting zoo. Please see Lynne Crandall with ideas or suggestions. We discussed replacing the basket silent auction with a gift card auction or eliminating the basket auction and asking members to donate to the country store instead.

Organist Assistant: We are looking for a piano or guitar player who could fill in and assist Sandy. If anyone knows of an adult or student who could fill this roll, please let someone on council know. There is money in the budget for a small stipend each Sunday.

Epilepsy Foundation Clothing Drive: Gloria Colbenson is willing to coordinate this in May. We had previously discussed doing this every other year. Two years ago it was very successful and raised over \$400. They will accept donations of clothing, linens and small household items.

Lynne made a motion and Preston seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Paster Scott closed in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Emilie Greb, Secretary



- 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!

RAIN: A GENTLE REMINDER OF GOD'S CARE



*A rainy day can be many things ...
 It can be moisture for the farmer's garden,
 Or the picnic that has to be postponed;
 It can be the replenishing of a stream,
 Or the overflow of a flood;
 It can be relief from a hot summer day,
 Or the chill of an autumn wind.
 The rotating cycle of clouds to Earth
 Is part of Nature's plan
 For stability throughout the Universe,
 As old as the hills,
 And dependable as the seasons.
 Rain and sunshine are equal partners
 In the daily expression of God's love.*

~Jeanne D. Birrell

We thank Vi Anderson for the beautiful tablecloth she crocheted and gave to the church for our use and enjoyment.



Blooming With Thankful Thanks

A great big "thank you" to all who helped me and Pat move to our "new" home. We were so overwhelmed by your generosity, help, and hard work for us.

Thank you all so very much!!

Blessings to all of you!

Pastor Scott and Pat Block