



take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

April 2025 Newsletter

Take Note...

Online giving now
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faithlutheranlittelfalls.org



**Faith's Core
Values:**
***Discipleship,
Hospitality,
Prayer,
Service,
Stewardship,
Worship,
and Unity***

From Pastor Mark...

Holy Week & Telling the Story

“Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed”

John 20:1

Holy Week is almost here and we will have reached the destination to which we have been traveling during Lent with the weekly focus on the Seven Deadly Sins. Holy Week starts out on a high note with Palm Sunday's celebration of Jesus' victorious entrance into Jerusalem. Then, with Maundy Thursday, we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper and how our Lord was betrayed.

That's where the story takes a sad turn.

The violence begins when one of Jesus' disciples cuts off the ear of one of the persons who came to arrest Jesus. Then, in the custody of the high priests, he is beaten. Then, hoping to calm these same religious leaders who want Jesus executed, Pilate orders Jesus to be whipped until He's unconscious. During this time the soldiers continue to mock this innocent man. The violence reaches its peak when Jesus is nailed to the cross.

If you have grown up in the church, think about how many times you have read or heard these words, “Carrying his own cross, he went out to the Place of the Skull. This is where they crucified him,” (John 19:17-18). It's helpful during Holy Week to pause and imagine the scene... to remember humanity's capacity for cruelty as well as our efforts to control God. Good Friday is an example of what people will do if they can get their hands on God. It is not a popular day to attend worship services.

However, you cannot have Easter without Good Friday.

Here's why: Easter is all about the resurrection of Jesus; God's victory over the forces of this world and, most importantly, it's a story of forgiveness and new life. This is the heart of the Christian faith.

I look forward to celebrating this Good News with you during Holy Week which starts on Palm Sunday, April 13.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

President's Message

Dear Faith Family,

This is a quote from Billy Graham several years ago: "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. **I will just have a change of address. I will have gone into the presence of God.**" Billy Graham. Confident, faith-filled, grace-filled, repentant, humble could be used to describe Billy Graham. As children of God, we can live with confidence that we too will have a new address. To prepare for our new address, we should begin packing. Packing even though our address change may be years and years from now. Packing ourselves with scripture, prayer, repentance, humbleness and grace. It is exciting to contemplate a move, to dream of what lies ahead. We never have to fear what lies ahead. Several Bible verses speak of a heavenly home, emphasizing our true citizenship and eternal dwelling place Philippians 3:20 states, "But our citizenship is in heaven," while Hebrews 11:16 describes believers as "longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one."

Faith Lutheran has had many addresses 116 8th Ave SE Little Falls, Mn; 1000 1st Ave NE Little Falls, Mn; 101 9th St SE, Little Falls, MN; 303 18th St SE Little Falls, MN. Now that our mortgage is paid at 303 18th St SE Little Falls, MN, How do we dream/plan for our address and how to move forward in Morrison County, Minnesota? How do we pack our bags toward our heavenly address? How do we continue to grow and give toward our mission here?

Your Council needs all of your ideas, plans, and dreams, for our church moving forward in Morrison County. Please, please think, contemplate, pray, give, call a council member to express your plan for moving forward. Also please continue to commit to, give time and talents to our youth program. Heather is bubbling with ideas and open to new ideas. She is committed to our youth and is asking for our help. We are working on a new mentor program to support our confirmation kids. It is as simple as making a phone call to check in with your mentee. Please call me for more information. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please check in with your hard working Sunday School committee. What do they need? Call Amanda, our volunteer coordinator, she will willingly supply you with ideas. It is an exciting time to be at 303 18th Ave SE. Join the excitement! Your council is so thankful for all of the hard work that happens at 303 18th St SE. Love, Faye 320-632-0478

Finance & Management Team

The Building/Finance Team met March 6, 2025 6:30 pm with Tom, Tod, Glenn, Brian, and Lynn in attendance.

Went over financial reports and noted giving is down from this time last year. With the mortgage being paid off, our recommendation to council is that current and future funds towards mortgage payoff should go to a new fund for the next building project.

Old Business— Tod will inspect possible bird roosts above entry door as the weather warms.

Fall furnace check. - Tom has arranged for an annual fall check for our 5 furnaces with local Co.

New Business— Financial report - Brian went over financials budget good so far but a concern that giving is down compared to last year at this time? Brian will discuss with the Council.

Went over team membership & team responsibilities from council. -

Decided Lynn will chair with Tod possibly taking chair next year.

Discussed replacing our chairs with more padded and comfortable chairs as current chairs are uncomfortable for people with back issues. We have a fund for this with some over \$5,000 in it. Quick cost estimate around \$15,000 - \$20,000 for 260 to 275 chairs. Tod and Brian will check into this more for costs and possible recommendations.

Financial Sec, treasurer terms. - Discussed the two-year treasurer term and the training/learning curve for software as new council members take on the position. Decided to keep as is because of the sensitivity of dealing with the financials, and the necessary change to the constitution;. With Brian's background - going forward will have both Cheryl and Brian to help train and support new council treasurers.

Summer projects for our team? Lawn spraying and Fertilizing, Weeding flower beds.

Adjourned 8:00

Congregational Life

The Congregational Life Team did not meet in March due to snow storms and most of the team members traveling.

The next two months will be more interesting. There's Easter breakfast April 20; garage/bake sale Saturday, May 3; and Celebration Sunday, May 18.

Check the signup sheets on the table in the narthex and volunteer where needed. Thanks.

For the team - Bev

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Current/Upcoming Small Groups:

1. Women's Bible Study meets on Friday mornings at 9. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
2. Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 9. This group typically goes over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
3. Mission Quilters meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Narthex.

Community Easter Event: I am excited to announce that we are hosting a Community Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt!!

This will take place on the evening of Friday, April 11 from 6:30-8pm. We are looking for volunteers to make cookies, help during the event and for lights. If you have black/disco/party lights that we can borrow, please let me know.

All help and supplies are greatly appreciated!!

Please note: There will also be our traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday following worship.

Weekly Emails: Every week I send out a "Faith Happenings" email. This email contains a variety of information for Faith Lutheran and our community. If you do not receive this email and would like to receive it, please give an email address to Sarah Kalkbrenner in the office or to myself.

Sign-ups: Wondering how you can help at church? Each week we look for greeters, ushers, a reader and twice a month, communion assistants. You can choose the area you would like to help at the sign-up table in the gathering area or online. You can scan the QR code to find the online sign-up!

Amanda Hyatt,
Ministry Volunteer Coordinator
Office: (320)414-0533
Cell: (320)630-2887
Email: volunteerfaithlutheran@gmail.com

Youth Director

Happy Spring!

Youth Group classes on Wednesday evenings (6:45 – 8 pm) will resume on April 23. Until then we will continue with our Lent Schedule as shown below:

- Deep Dive Sessions (Tuesday evenings 6:45 – 8 pm)
- Lent Soup Supper & Service (Wednesday evening 6 – 8 pm)

Wednesday, April 30 we will have our monthly End of the Month Potluck with the confirmation and high school students. We will be having a 'Fruit Bar' and all are welcome to attend!

Little Falls' Annual Day of Caring is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7 from 8:00 am to noon! Our church will be signing up as a group to help clean up yards and parks to help spring clean our community. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please let me know by April 9. Please also let me know your shirt size and if you would like to attend the free breakfast or lunch that will be offered at the High School.

Blessings to All,
Heather Byers

Children's Team

At their meeting on March 2 the Children's Team discussed Easter Candy, the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday and the Palm Sunday Processional.

They assembled the clothing rack that was purchased and placed it in the closet with the costumes. They also welcomed Tom and Tessa Kroll to the team.

Mission Statement

Know, Grow, Go

- *Know* God and others
- *Grow* in Faith
- *Go* in Faith to Love and Serve the Lord



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. **Stand** firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:16

Faith Lutheran Church

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March Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, March 20th, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mark Berger, Brian Bergs, Linda Collins, Glenn Hietala, Michael Johnson, Tom Lippert, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Steve Tschida, Pastor Mark and Special Guest: Justin Juelke
Absent: Zach Leibold, Pam Trang

The meeting was called to order and opening prayer led by Faye Sandy. (Next month's prayer will be led by Brian Bergs.)

Additions to the Agenda: Faye called for any additions to the agenda. It was decided to begin with Justin. Justin presented information about our copyright licensing. We currently have a license for copying, storing and printing lyrics. But since we record our services and post them on Youtube as well as our local Cable Access, it is recommended we also have a Streaming License. Adding this to our current License would cost about \$102/year. Chris Scholl moved and Mark Berger seconded to spend up to \$300 on an additional copyright license as needed. Motion carried.

Linda Collins moved and Glenn Hietala seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Council Secretary's Report: There were a couple of small corrections needed to the February minutes. Under Mission & Outreach Team it's *Minnesota* Citizen's Concerned for Life not Morrison County and under Worship & Prayer Team it should be *Lent* not Advent. Steve Tschida moved and Renae Stueber seconded to accept the February Council Minutes with corrections. Motion carried. Linda Collins moved and Tom Lippert seconded to approve the Special Council Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2025. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Brian Bergs presented the February financial reports. On the Budget comparison, revenues were over budget year to date by about \$38k while expenditures were under budget by over \$5k. This puts us 10% less than the budget on expenses. This is great news; however a large amount was to the mortgage principal which means if we look at General revenues we are almost \$20k behind. This seems to be a trend although last year we were \$10k higher in revenues at this time. This will need to be watched closely. Brian was also asked to check on the Jamaica Mission Trip money. Most of this is in the pass-through fund. This is likely from those who gave toward the trip and did not end up going due to the closure of the Sunbeam Boys Home. Tom Lippert moved and Glenn Hietala seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark shared the Jan Schrupp passed away this afternoon. Her funeral will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 27th at Faith. He also shared some other visits and phone calls to shut ins he had made. His main focus is preaching during Lent and preparing for Holy Week. He shared information about what is being taught in the First Communion classes. He also thanked those who do the behind-the-scenes work, right now that is mainly the work toward the Soup Suppers.

Old Business:

Attic: Tom Lippert is still working on securing this space.

Policy Book: Previously this was going to be an employee handbook and a group was put together of Jim Nelson, Pastor Mark and Chris Scholl to work on this. It was recommended to make a Policy Book instead. Chris will start putting something together to just get going, using the sample policy book he shared via email. The council was also asked to read through it and make suggestions.

New Business:

April Meeting: Due to the usual date of the meeting falling on Maundy Thursday, the April Council meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 15th.

Mortgage Principal Remaining Funds: After the final payoff of the mortgage, funds remain in the Mortgage Principal Fund. Brian will make an announcement this coming Sunday about the mortgage being finalized. The council will discuss the remaining funds in the Mortgage Principal Fund once we are assured that no more money is coming into that Fund. Online giving will be changed to offer giving toward the General Fund or the Phase II Construction.

24-Hour Prayer Vigil: This year there is the option to pray at the church as usual or pray at home. Faye will share with the congregation and encourages the council to sign up as well.

Reports:

Church Secretary's Report: Sarah shared a suggestion from the suggestion box regarding having visiting pastors only preach and have members of our congregation run the remainder of the service as it can be an issue when the visiting pastor is unfamiliar with our service.

Sarah also shared the price of the Safety Deposit box is going up from \$25/year to \$36/year.

A date was recommended for the Roadside Cleanup but that date is Senior Sunday and Celebration Sunday so it will not work. Sarah will reach out to the Tonsagers to attempt to set a new date.

Sarah shared the paperwork for those authorized to access the church accounts is ready to be signed at the bank.

Sarah also shared a security system upgrade/repair quote for \$445 from Dave ZumBerge. Brian Bergs moved and Chris Scholl seconded to repair a camera and upgrade with a new camera for the security system from the Building Security System Fund.

A question was also discussed regarding how to handle gluten free bread at communion to avoid cross contamination.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children's Team: The clothing rack was put together and placed in the closet. They discussed purchasing candy for the egg hunt and the Palm Sunday Procession.
- Congregational Life Team: Did not meet in March due to weather.
- Finance & Management Team: Discussed mortgage principal and chair fund. They are pricing chairs to start slowly replacing some. They also discussed recommending a change to allow the Council Treasurer to hold the position longer than two years, this would require a change to the constitution though.
- Mission & Outreach Team: Mark Berger moved and Tom Lippert seconded to allow Faith Lutheran to be the drop off point for the Operation Christmas Child boxes in 2025. Motion carried.
- Worship & Prayer Team: Did not meet.
- Youth & Family Team: Heather is working on setting up a Faith Lutheran team to do the Little Falls Day of Caring on May 7. They were also asked to serve pizza at the fair this year with all funds raised going toward the Youth Group, it should be a great fundraiser for them.

Steve Tschida moved and Brian Bergs seconded to adjourn the March council meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting will take place **Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.**

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

March	2: 148	\$ 6,645
March	9: 131	\$ 9,332
March	16: 148	\$ 3,933
March	23: 134	\$ 3,796
March	30: 130	\$ 2,930