



May

May 2024 Newsletter

take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

Take Note...

Online giving now
available on our website:
faithlutheranlittlefalls.org



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

From Pastor Mark...

Pentecost

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4

May 19 is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost happened soon after Christ’s ascension when many of Jesus’ followers along with his mother, and his brothers were gathered in a house in Jerusalem. They had just experienced the grief of Christ’s death, the joy of His resurrection, and the mixed feelings of seeing him depart from them to ascend to His heavenly father. When it happened, they heard a rushing wind and they saw little tongues of fire settling on each of them. Instead of being afraid, they were filled with the contentment of God’s presence – the Holy Spirit settling in their hearts. When they all started to speak in various languages so that others could understand the Good News in their own native tongues, some of the neighbors thought they were drunk.

But these believers were familiar with John the Baptist’s expectation that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Peter even stood up and told the crowds of devout Jews that these fires and gifts of foreign languages were the fulfillment of God’s promise prophesied by Joel: “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” With this talk, Peter inspired about 3000 people to be baptized that day. Their mission field was ripe. We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit works in the preaching and hearing of God’s Word.

Our hope and prayer as Christians is that we, as a community of faith, would also receive the life-renewing gift of the Holy Spirit.

May the Holy Spirit shape all that you think, hope, say, and do.

In Christ,
Pastor Johnson

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

It's VBS season!! If you have not signed up your children/grandchildren yet, I encourage you to do so as spots are filling fast!!

We are also looking for volunteers to help the week of VBS (June 3-7). If you are interested in volunteering your time, please speak with me and we will find the spot that fits you best!

You can sign kids up and sign up for volunteering at lfmnbvs.churchcenter.com Please note, the volunteer link is below the map.

Current/Upcoming Small Groups:

1. Women's group hosted by Sarah Johnson. This group meets on Friday mornings at 8:30. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
2. Men's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. This group typically goes over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
3. "The Family Project" by Focus on the Family. Hosted by Tod Tonsager. This is on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the sanctuary.
4. Faith Comforters meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Narthex.
5. Joe Hyatt is hosting a Men's Bible Study on the book of Romans. They meet on Sundays at 5pm in the gathering area.

Mission & Outreach Team

The Faith Mission & Outreach Ministry Team is using proceeds from the team's funding to support several activities in April and May. Through a special email vote on April 12 the team unanimously approved donating up to \$200 to purchase pizza for people attending Pastor Johnson's education on gender and sexuality. Other outreach activities recently sponsored by Faith include a) the "Art of Marriage" video event on April 26-27; b) Sarah Wolbeck's summer missionary trip to southeast Asia and c) the Family Project hosted by Tod Tonsager; and Guatemalan child (Julio) through Compassion International, which incidentally increased from \$456 to \$516 for 2024. As always, please contact a Mission & Outreach team member for additional information.

Children's Ministry Team

Summer is on its way which also means Sunday School is wrapping up. Our Celebration Sunday will be Sunday, May 19. There will be fun activities for the kiddos!

VBS will be at Alliance church this year and will be June 3-7, 9am-12pm. Be sure to register you children. The first 60 families will receive a FREE CD with the VBS music!! (digital download option is also available)

The Children's Ministry Team meets the first Sunday of each month at 8am. If you are interested in joining our team, feel free to join us at our next meeting!

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

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April Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, April 18th, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Joe Hyatt, Michael Johnson, Howie Larsen, Zach Leibold, Tom Lippert, Jim Nelson, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Pam Trang, and Pastor Mark

Absent: Steve Fellbaum, Steve Tschida

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen. Opening prayer was led by Joe Hyatt.

Secretary's Report: Joe Hyatt moved and Zach Leibold seconded to accept the March Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah also shared several items that had come up. Property taxes on the farmland owned by the church have been paid for the year, the dishwasher leak and sprinkler corrosion shielding were passed to the Finance & Management team. Sarah is still working on the church credit card issues. Our church constitution was shared with another church who recently joined the LCMC.

Sarah also shared information regarding the Aflac Insurance options discussed for the employees. All three eligible employees would need to sign up and there would be no cost to the church.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Hyatt presented the March financial reports. The General Fund is still sitting at a comfortable place. Year-to-date we are about \$13k behind in revenue. Although we are nearly \$8k below budget in expenses, we are still about \$5k behind budget for the year. Jim Nelson moved and Tom Lippert seconded to approve the March Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark thanked the council and staff for all the extra work that was put in during the Lent and Easter season. He is having 7th and 8th graders in Confirmation complete some sermon notes. In June he will be traveling to visit his parents sometimes and would like to work from home part of the week when that happens. Pastor Mark also started a discussion about some concerning practices in other churches involved with publishing Bible studies and music that the council should be aware of to watch out for.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Amanda's report shared information about small groups as well as a recap of the Webinar replay.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Children's Team:** The Faith Weavers curriculum has run out and rather than buy the next set for the remaining 4 weeks of Sunday School, some choices were reviewed and the *Try Not to Laugh* curriculum, which we already own, will be used. The last day of Sunday School will be May 12th with Celebration Sunday on May 19th. VBS registration is underway, and volunteers are greatly needed.
- **Congregational Life Team:** Noel Guerard stepped up to be the new chair of this team. The Easter breakfast served 326. The money from the Easter breakfast as well as Soup Suppers will go to the Youth for their mission trip, the total raised for the youth is \$1,142. The Garage sale will be May 4th. Sarah Wolbeck's mission trip was discussed and how to help her fundraise.
- **Finance & Management Team:** Did not meet.
- **Mission & Outreach Team:** In a recommendation from Pastor Mark the mission team requested approval to send World Mission Prayer League \$500 from their undesignated missions fund. Tom Lippert moved and Faye Sandy seconded to approve this payment. Motion carried.
- **Worship & Prayer Team:** Did not meet.
- **Youth & Family Team:** Nine students will be on the Mission trip to Indianapolis with two adult chaperones. Fundraisers were discussed. The Youth team will be sending a gift card and note to former seniors. Senior Journals will be placed out this week so people can sign them prior to Senior Sunday, May 12th.

Youth Director Search Update: The team is attempting to expand the search by making flyers for congregation members to place in their workplace or other areas they think may be beneficial. The job opening is listed on job boards at several colleges at this point. A Facebook job listing has also been created so it can be shared.

Pine Country Bank CD: Howie Larsen moved and Zach Leibold seconded to approve Sarah Kalkbrenner be added as an authorizing person to the Pine Country Bank CD account. Motion carried.

Blue Star Flags: Howie Larsen has been seeking further information regarding the Blue Star Flag and how we can possibly use it as a church to show support for our active-duty servicepeople. He was pointed to our local Veteran Services Officer, which is Kris VonBerge. So, he will be speaking to her about this. The flags are provided by the American Legion.

New Business:

Roadside Cleanup: A spring clean up date needs to be set. May 5th was recommended. Howie will reach out to Tonsagers regarding that date as their home serves as the meeting place.

Small Group Security: A concern has been raised regarding leaving doors unlocked when groups meet in areas where no one is near the door. The council recommends a policy be set regarding how to handle security for these groups. A recommendation is to lock the door and leave a phone number for people to call. The Finance Team will speak with the security team regarding this issue.

Church Shooting Club: An idea was brought forward to create a skeet shooting club within the church. Howie will talk to the LeBlancs about availability and cost.

Joe Hyatt moved and Chris Scholl seconded to adjourn the April council meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting will take place May 16th, 2024.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

April 7:	143	\$ 10,381
April 14:	162	\$ 6,996
April 21:	156	\$ 5,708
April 28:	144	\$ 3,684
		Church Mortgage
		Balance: \$174,774