



July

July 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...

Daily Devotions

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Just another invitation to prayerfully take the Bible Challenge. As you think about your summer routine, if you don't already have a habit of daily devotions, please consider trying it. Or, if you already have a practice of Bible reading and prayer, you can supplement it with the Bible Challenge.

If you're looking for a framework to shape this devotional time, you could try the G.R.A.S.P. method. Here's how it works: Either on your own, or with someone else, take 5 to 10 minutes each day to:

1. **Get** into the Word
2. **Read** it (you can use the suggested daily reading from the Bible Challenge)
3. **Apply** it by taking a moment to connect it to something in your daily life
4. **Share** one thing that you are...
(a.) grateful for (b.) looking forward to
5. **Pray** using your own personalized prayer and/or the Lord's Prayer

May God bless you and give you joy in staying close to God's Word.

Sincerely,

Pastor Johnson

President's Message

Greetings Family of Faith,

I don't mind a winter with little snow and not much cold weather but an overly wet spring (especially June) is a bit over the top. God has a plan for such things - it's just hard to understand what that is. I would guess that being willing and able to complain about the weather is also part of God's big picture.

With summer in full swing, I hope you are enjoying the many blessings God has given us for outdoor activities. As for me, one of the things I enjoy is watching the garden come to life. The potato crop is starting to produce new small potatoes now. Enough to "steal" one potato from each plant. Nothing better to eat. The one thing I need to keep an eye on is hungry deer. They are fun to look at but hard on succulent plants.

Our church year is slowing down. Sunday School is over for the year and won't start again until September. VBS is over and was another success with over 140 young people in attendance. One gratifying thing about VBS was that 75 -80 volunteers willingly helped out. There are not a lot of church events planned for the summer months. Many of our members are away from home on weekends, which means some familiar faces are not seen on every Sunday. We miss them and know they will be back soon.

There are still things going on though. The parking lot cracks were repaired last week. There are always a number of items that come before the council which require attention. Income and expenses are monitored; policy decisions are discussed and voted on; suggestion box items are addressed; and Fall season events are brought to mind; the semiannual extra mortgage payment was approved and sent in.

Speaking of suggestion box items - the council received a **signed** suggestion about signage on our church driveway, We addressed that issue and took action. The suggestion was signed which made it a simple procedure to notify the person about the outcome of the suggestion. A great lesson here. If you have a suggestion or comment about something that is important to you, don't hesitate to bring it to the council's attention. Talk to any member of the council or put your comment in the suggestion box The council takes all suggestions and comments seriously and acts on them.

Faith Lutheran is a wonderful congregation with great talent and willing workers. God is with us and has blessed us over and over. I pray this journey we've been on continues forever. It has been an amazing ride. Thank you all for growing God's kingdom.

In love, Howie

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Summer is in full swing! With the beginning of summer came VBS. Each day we had about 145 kids and about 75 volunteers that came! Thank you to all that volunteered their time to come and help all these kids grow in their relationship with God! We would not be able to offer this without our amazing volunteers!

The Family Project and the Sunday night men's Bible study have wrapped up for the summer. If you are still looking for a small group, we have the following options available at church:

1. Wednesday mornings at 8 AM is the men's Bible study. They go over the sermon for the upcoming Sunday.
2. Thursday morning at 9 AM is when Faith comforters meet. This is a women's quilting group.
3. Friday mornings at 9 AM is the women's Bible study. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday as well.

If you are interested in hosting your own small group, whether at church, your home, a restaurant, etc., I would be more than happy to help you set up a time and place as well as help you find study material, whether it be a topical study or a book of the Bible. We could also be looking ahead to the fall if you feel that would fit your schedule. Please call/text me if you would like assistance. 320-630-2887.

I hope you all have a blessed month of July!

Amanda Hyatt, Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

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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June Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, June 20th, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Steve Fellbaum, Joe Hyatt, Michael Johnson, Howie Larsen, Zach Leibold, Jim Nelson, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Steve Tschida and Pastor Mark

Absent: Tom Lippert, Faye Sandy and Pam Trang

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen. Opening prayer was led by Michael Johnson.

Secretary's Report: Joe Hyatt moved and Steve Tschida seconded to accept the May Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah shared a suggestion from the suggestion box and several items to be forwarded to the Finance & Management Team. Sarah also shared a letter from the property insurance company, the premium is going up.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Hyatt presented the May financial reports. The General Fund is steady at \$28,000 which would cover several months of expenses if needed. The Reserve savings account is sitting at \$34,000. Looking at the Budget comparison report, the Revenue is almost \$10,000 behind. The expenditures are about \$18,000 under budget. Which means we appear to be about \$8,000 ahead. However, \$17,000 is in designated funds so budget is actually about \$8,800 below where it should be. Steve Fellbaum moved and Michael Johnson seconded to approve the May Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark shared his report including his remote work days, vacation days and continuing education days. He has been working on making visits. The church is now sending Birthday cards to members. A wedding will be coming up in August. Pastor Mark will be using the liturgy from the Reclaim Hymnal.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children's Team: Sunday School surveys had very mixed replies. The Children's Team will survey the Sunday School families in July to try to get more information. As 6th grade is part of Confirmation classes, they may be released from attending Sunday School so they can stay in worship to complete their sermon notes. Renae Stueber moved and Joe Hyatt seconded to have 6th graders attend church. Motion carried. Vacation Bible School went very well with 145 participants. There were 75-80 volunteer helpers and next year it will be hosted by Living Hope.
- Congregational Life Team: Did not meet.
- Finance & Management Team: Did not meet.
- Mission & Outreach Team: The Mission Team shared a new Mission Trip Form they have created. Jim Nelson moved and Chris Scholl seconded to approve the new Mission Trip Form with a cover page added. Motion carried.
- Worship & Prayer Team: Did not meet.
- Youth & Family Team: The Youth Team discussed the Youth Mission trip fundraising and the Youth director search.

Youth Director Search Update: The team is expanding the search to LinkedIn. They will also consider something like Indeed if no candidates come forward in the next few months. Renae Stueber did some word of mouth searching at the VBS too.

Military Acknowledgement: Since there are still some questions about the Blue Star Flag and whether it would be appropriate for the church to use it, we could just make a corner of the bulletin board for acknowledging our Military members.

Church Credit Card: Sarah will check with the church's bank to get information about applying for a new business credit card so we can close the old one.

New Business:

Parking Lot Crack Resealing: The Finance team approved the parking lot crack resealing to be done by Jet-Black. The work has been done and the invoice for \$2450 received. Howie Larsen moved and Zach Leibold seconded to approve the funds from: Memorial: Other, Memorial: John Albaugh, Memoria: Erik Mathison Music and the cookbook funds. Motion carried.

Pastor's Evaluation Forms: The council is requested to turn in their Pastor Evaluation forms to Sarah by July 1 so the Executive committee can have a meeting with Pastor Mark.

Jim Nelson moved and Joe Hyatt seconded to adjourn the June council meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting will take place July 18th, 2024 at Bev & Howie Larsens' home. Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

June	2:	130	\$ 6,211
June	9:	136	\$ 6,319
June	16:	150	\$ 4,435
June	23:	130	\$ 3,354
Church Mortgage			
Balance: \$166,501			