



take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

March 2025 Newsletter

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...

Meditations on **"The Seven Deadly Sins"**
Wednesday Worship during Lent

In Christ, we are **Dead to sin...Alive to God**
Romans 6:11

Lenten Theme

Beginning on March 5, Ash Wednesday, at each weekly Lenten service (7:00 pm Wednesdays) we will look at one of the "Seven Deadly Sins" which are:

Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Avarice, Lust, Gluttony

To symbolize each of these sins, we will be using a unique Lenten Cross made of seven pieces. Each week, with each sermon topic, another piece will be added. When assembled, the cross will form two crosses locked together, and inseparable. The one cross represents Christ's cross, on which He died for our sin. The other represents our cross, on which we are crucified to sin. The two are inseparable: justification (*being made right with God*) and sanctification (*being made holy by God*). Only in Christ are we free to become "dead to sin and alive to God."

Regarding Sin

Scripture is more concerned about Sin than about sins. Sin is the disease: sins are the symptoms. Sins are like a scab or a wound – not the cause, but the sign that something is wrong. Sin is like a disease – that which causes illness or wounds.

We believe that Christ died for our sin *and* our sins. The purchase price of our salvation has been paid in full. While Christ died for our sin, we are now called to die to sin by turning to Christ for mercy and no longer answering to the demands of sin.

You are invited:

Make Lent an experience of repentance and renewal through:

- ◇ Soup Suppers Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- ◇ Worship Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ Taking the monthly Bible Challenge

Finally, strengthen our faith-family with your presence and your prayers as we seek the gift of God's renewing grace in Christ.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

President's Message

Dear Family of Faith,

In Minnesota in February, we gain an average of about 70 minutes of daylight. In one short month we gain 70 minutes of light! You have to love that! You might not notice it everyday, but a little more light in your day lifts you up! The accumulated effect of extra light can be life changing! Soon new growth will begin. Think if we let the light of Jesus into our life a little more everyday what the accumulated effect could be. New growth! Light is a symbol of God's presence, truth, goodness, and hope. We can draw extra light from reading the Bible, praying, attending church, and attending Bible studies, and so much more. Now that you have gathered in all this extra light, imagine what you can do with it! We could spread the light to others. Invite them into the light. Light sharing comes in many forms. To me I've seen it moving through Faith. Thank you all for your attendance, time and comments at the annual meeting. Your feedback is beyond important. We can only do better when we know better. It was wonderful to see the financial condition of our church. Thank you for your continued monetary gifts. Beyond monetary gifts is the tremendous gift of your precious time. I especially want to give thanks to those who have stepped up to help Heather in her new role and the many who serve on committees and those who go about God's work unnoticed. We can be the light by always being positive. On Christmas eve we lit each other's candles, sharing the light. Let's continue doing that everyday by sharing the light of Christ with everyone we meet! "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12)

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve on your council. Love, Faye

Congregational Life

Congregational Life team met Tuesday, February 4th. We welcomed new members. Our team now consists of Rose Buns, Judy Berger, Becky Boody, Debbie Nelson, Roxanne Wyatt, Howie Larsen, and Bev Larsen with Mark Berger and Pam Trang as Council Reps.

Bev is chairperson, Judy, vice chair, and Becky, secretary. We discussed upcoming events such as Lenten soup suppers, Easter breakfast, spring garage/bake sale and celebration Sunday.

Sign up sheets are on the table in the gathering space, or contact Amanda Hyatt, our volunteer co-ordinator.

Children's Team

The Children's Team met on Sunday February 2, 2025, we welcomed Chris Scholl to the team as the Council representative. We also learned that Judy Berger will be leaving the team to join a different team.

We would like to –

Thank Amanda Hyatt and Judy Berger!!

The dedication and time invested by them to support the children's classes and programs, have given the children of faith the opportunity to grow their Faith!

Amanda will continue to work with the VBS program.

At the meeting we put together the lesson binders for the remaining Sunday School lessons. We discussed how the Sunday School schedule was working, and decided on the clothing rack to order to organize the costumes other items that we reuse.

We are always looking to welcome more members to our team --to make sure that we give our children the best foundation to love and serve our Lord!

Becky Fellbaum

Worship & Prayer Team

The Worship and Prayer Team met for our quarterly meeting February 2nd. Discussion focused around the upcoming Lenten Season.

*Lenten Services: using the Holden Evening Service

*March 5th Ash Wednesday(communion)

*April 13th Palm Sunday

*Maundy Thursday (communion)

*April 18th Good Friday Service at Grace Covenant

*Healing Service 2:00 at Faith

*We are working on the 24 hour prayer vigil

*April 20 Easter Sunday 9:30AM service

Thank you to Amanda Hyatt for working on a schedule for the sound board and thank you to all of those who stepped forward to help. Also a huge thank you to Justin Juelke for donating two guitars to the church. Thanks to all on this committed team! Faye Sandy

Mission and Outreach Team

The Faith Lutheran Mission and Outreach Ministry Team met on Sunday, February 9, after worship service. The team approved its budgeted gifts including \$500 to Habitat for Humanity, \$500 to Beginning Experiences, and \$500 to St. Paul Lutheran Seminary (payment 1/ \$500 of a total of \$2,000 in 2025). The team also finalized gifts to the Morrison County chapter of the Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life (MCCL) and the Brick House \$500. Pat completed the "vetting" paperwork as outlined in the mission/ministry funding guidelines.

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 on Wednesday mornings. 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 10. Time is TBD, please watch weekly emails, bulletin and newsletters for more details.

We are looking for black lights for this event. If you have any black lights that we could borrow that would be greatly appreciated!!

Please contact me if you have supplies the church could borrow or if you would like to help. Your help is appreciated!

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

As Lent season is upon us, the schedule for our youth group will be adjusted to include time for Deep Dive sessions and Wednesday worship.

- The Deep Dive sessions with our congregation members will take place on Monday or Tuesday of each week starting on March 17 at 7 pm at church. Topics that will be covered include Faith in our World Today, Confidence, Resisting Temptation, Baptism, and Mental Health. The details of these deep dive sessions will be shared via email to parents. If you are not receiving email updates, please let me know. Thank you to Denny, Howie, Brian, Leanne, and Pat for leading these sessions - we appreciate you!
- Wednesday's schedule (March 12 - April 9) will include soup supper starting at 6 pm and service at 7 pm. Youth will be expected to help with soup suppers so they can pay towards their Colorado trip expenses. If you would like to volunteer your youth to help with one of the suppers, please let me know. They can help with serving/clean-up and would need to be to church by 6:00 p.m.

We will not have Youth Group on March 5 and will resume on April 23 at 6:45 p.m.

If your youth is planning to attend Noah's Ark in Colorado July 14 - 19, please turn in your \$175 deposit and Health Form by March 2. Checks can be made to Faith Lutheran Church and health forms were sent to parents via email. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Happy Spring and Blessings to All,
Heather Byers

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

303 18th St. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-414-0533

faithlutheranlittelfalls.org
secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com

February Council Minutes

February 20th, 2025

Present: Pastor Mark Johnson, Michael Johnson, Zach Leibold, Tom Lippert, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Pam Trang, Steve Tschida, Brian Bergs, Glenn Hietala, Linda Collins, Mark Berger, Sarah Kalkbrenner

Faye called the meeting to order. She opened with prayer.

Additions to Agenda: under New Business – new microphone; under Old Business – lock for attic. Tom moved to approve the agenda, Zach seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary's report: Chris moved to accept the January Council minutes as presented. Steve seconded. The motion carried. Brian moved to accept the January 26th Special Council Meeting minutes as presented. Glenn seconded. The motion carried. There were two corrections to the Annual Meeting minutes. In the last paragraph on the first page, "Noel Gerard" should read "Noel Guerard", "George Faye" should read "George Sandy". Linda moved to accept the Annual Meeting minutes as corrected. Mike seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report (Brian): We have some ground to make up as far as revenues go. Total Revenues for January were \$19,343.15, Budgeted Revenue was \$29,506.00 for a shortage of \$10,162.85. Total Expenses for January were \$20,273.29, Budgeted Expenses were \$24,684.00. Expenses were \$4,410.71 under Budget. There was a question about the large amount of money in the Jamaica Fund and the Undesignated Missions fund lines on the "Cash Balance by Fund" report. Brian will check into these and report next month. The Sunbeam Boys Home line may be combined with another line. On the "Statement of Financial Position" report, there is \$121,095.40 in Cash & Cash equivalents and \$56,802.91 in Liabilities, which includes \$51,818.90 left on the mortgage. There is \$83,628.01 in Restricted Assets, which is part of the Cash Assets. Tom moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark thanked the council for the flowers, for their understanding and expressions of sympathy. They feel very blessed to be here. He shared the visits he has made, both in person and over the phone. He is talking with a family who will have a child baptized. He called some inactive families. He also shared what is being done for confirmation.

Old Business

Employee Handbook Update – we discussed putting together a policy book instead of a handbook. Pastor Mark has a collection that can be used to as a guide.

Membership Maintenance – Pastor is speaking with inactive members. The Bylaws state to be considered a voting active member, the member needs to do one of the following at least once a year– attend service, take communion, give, or participate in activities. No policy is in place for how to remove people from membership.

Attic Issue – The attic is pretty well cleaned out. However, some wreaths were put back up there. It was decided the door needs to be locked. Tom will fashion some kind of gate. Tom and Zach will have keys and will decide what can go up there. Pastor will also have a key. Roger will be asked to put the filters, etc. that are in the attic in a storeroom on the main floor. Tom and Zach will change filters when needed. Zach moved we lock the attic, Tom seconded. Motion carried. Tom said he will get this done as soon as possible and speak with Roger.

New Business

Youth Director Contract – Heather let us know she got a full time job elsewhere. She would very much like to keep working here, working evenings and weekend. She would like to move to an hourly wage working for 10-12 hours a week. Start date as hourly would be February 21st. The proposed hourly package for Heather is as follows: \$20/hour; 30 hours PTO; no 1-to-1 time off; no Health Insurance; Expense account \$250; Continuing Education \$500. Steve moved to approve this package for Heather, Mike seconded. The motion carried. Faye will share the package with Heather.

Guitar Donation – Thank you to Justin Juelke for donating two guitars to the church. Brian suggested we send a donation-in-kind letter to Justin. Sarah will take care of sending the form.

Authorization for Bank Account Access – This authorization needs to be documented in the minutes for the bank. Linda moved to authorize Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faye Sandy, Brian Bergs, and Zachary Leibold to access the bank account. Mark seconded. The motion carried.

New Microphone – Steve let us know that the two spare microphones are on different frequencies than Pastor Mark's and suggested we get new ones that are on the same frequency. The Worship & Prayer Team has budgeted for this – Steve will speak to the committee about it.

Reports:

Sarah's report: There was one suggestion in the suggestion box – a question on who is on the visitation team. Sarah was asked to let them know it's in the works. The church received a letter from the state of Minnesota indicating a payroll report hadn't been received. This has been taken care of. Tomorrow is the newsletter deadline.

Children's (Mike): The rack that was approved has been ordered and will be put together at the next meeting. They discussed the Easter Egg Hunt and keeping Sunday School during services.

Youth Director Report & Youth Committee Report (Renae): The duties and responsibilities of the Youth Committee need to be updated – a line is included that doesn't belong under Youth. They also need new members. They discussed getting together a team of mentors for the kids.

Congregational Life (Pam): Zach moved to approve holding the garage sale on the 1st Saturday in May, Mark seconded. The motion carried. Part of the proceeds will go to purchase a new grill. The Brat Sale will be June 20th & 21st. Faye will check to see if the grills in the garage need to be disposed of. Ash Wednesday is March 5th. Soup suppers will start on Wednesday, March 12th.

Finance & Management (Brian) – have not meet.

Mission & Outreach (Tom) – They approved \$500 donation to Morrison County Citizens Concerned for Life and Purple Carrot Market. They also approved \$500 to the Brick House – this one is still being vetted.

Worship & Prayer (Faye) – Amanda is putting together a schedule for the sound board. It was asked if there will be Communion on Ash Wednesday. We will be using the Holden service for Lent. The theme for the Lent sermon series will be the Seven Deadly Sins. Good Friday will be at Grace Covenant this year. It was discussed if the healing service and the 24 hour prayer vigil should be held again this year. It was recommended to hold the healing service at 2 pm again. The prayer vigil usually starts at 3 pm. There was discussion on changing the format to signing up to pray at home instead of coming to the church. Faye asked us to consider how it should be done this year.

Sarah mentioned the normal April Council meeting lands on Maundy Thursday. It was decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday, April 15th instead of on Thursday, April 17th.

Chris asked about how songs are put in the video computer. They don't always match with what the worship team is actually doing. Faye will bring it up at the Worship & Prayer Team meeting asking them to get the information on worship songs to Sarah as soon as possible after Wed. practice.

Zach moved and Mark seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Attendance & Offering

February	2:	113	\$ 7,356
February	9:	120	\$ 3,824
February	16:	108	\$ 6,481
February	23:	144	\$ 4,378
Church Mortgage			
Balance: \$51,422			