



From Pastor Mark...

Summer Routines & Catching the Faith

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

The Purpose of Summer

In this summer's season of vacations, family reunions, and weekends at the cabin, it's good to remember that God wants us to take time to rest & recharge. That's the purpose of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is about more than just resting and getting away – it's about hearing God's Word; it's about being recharged at hearing about the many gifts of God's grace to us. We encounter God's grace when His word is proclaimed; we receive God's grace in the sacraments.

"Communing with God" Hot Spots

It's true that God is everywhere. But there are limitations to the argument that we can commune with God anywhere (like the garden, or on the lake, or on the golf course). That's because we don't necessarily hear God's promises spoken to us in those places. God has no problem finding us. But our efforts to find God are imperfect, at best, and are complicated by all the voices & forces in this world which try to pull us away from the living God; forces which tempt us to fall victim to indifference or despair. So, when we need God, we look for God where God promises to be – in the proclaimed Word and in the sacraments. The church's mission is to make sure God's promises are constantly proclaimed – and accessible.

Enjoy the summer and keep the faith. Take time to hear God's life-giving good news.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

Take Note...

Online giving now
available on our website:
faithlutheranlittelfalls.org



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

President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pollen has one purpose for a plant. It makes more plants. Light and dusty pollen grains can be airborne and blown in the wind for long distances. Plants with tiny or inconspicuous flowers, such as grasses, corn, and many trees, generally have light, dusty pollen that blows on the wind. Some of the pollen lands on the stigma of a compatible flower, just by chance. Although some plant species rely on wind or water to transfer pollen from one flower to the next, the vast majority of all plant species need the help of animals for pollination. Heavy and sticky pollen cannot blow in the wind and therefore pollination must be carried from flower to flower by insects.

God's word is spread by radio, TV, and in church. Like the light, dusty pollen it reaches many near and far. Sometimes our words or actions can be small, maybe even seemingly unnoticed but like the light dusty pollen can travel long distances and affect many people. This beautiful gold dust often settles on compatible people. People that know of Jesus' love and grace.

Here's where things get sticky. We might have to be like bees and animals going after that thick, sticky pollen that must be carried from flower to flower, person to person. We, the bees, must take the Word directly to friends, neighbors, strangers hoping some of the good news will stick with them.

Invite them to the hive.

Mark 16:15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

Looking forward to a fun busy summer at Faith with campfires starting June 11th! Our first one will also be a mortgage burning party! With the mortgage paid off, we can start dreaming/planning for moving forward in Faith!

Thank you busy bees of Faith!

Faye

Mission & Outreach Team

The Faith Lutheran Mission and Outreach Ministry Team will meet on Sunday, June 8, to finalize several gifts. Faith members are invited to provide input to the team on the ministries being considered. In addition, money is available to offset family costs to attend various Bible camps and families should submit their names to receive funding for pre-approved Bible-focused camps. PLEASE NOTE: Not all camps have been approved for funding sponsorships from Faith's budget. Please contact the Mission & Outreach Team (MOT) for additional information. At its May meeting, team members approved making additional gifts to ministries already receiving funding from Faith and to consider other local ministries as well. The team approved making a \$500 gift to Ruby's Pantry in May and is planning to make a gift in support of a Christian speaker who will be coming to the area in the fall. Congregation members with ministry support suggestions are invited to contact the team chair or any of its members. The team currently has a budget surplus of over \$12,000 and wants to shrink the surplus at its June 8 meeting.

Congregational Life Team

Spring is here! God has given us another beautiful season of green grass, green trees, and colorful flowers. God is good!

Congregational Life team met in May and helped plan for the graduating seniors service and of Sunday School picnic.

The weather was cool, but there was plenty good food and fellowship. AND Pastor Mark and Isaac won the Lucky Ducky Bean Bag Tourney! Congratulations!

We honored 4 graduating seniors, all from Little Falls this year. We wish them success and happiness and to keep Jesus walking with them as they step into another chapter of their lives.

The garage/bake sale was held May 3rd. Thank you to everyone who helped in many ways to make this a success again. \$1,581 was made. 10% goes to missions and the rest will be used for new chairs for our sanctuary.

Two things coming up...burning of the mortgage on Wednesday, June 11th. There will be an outdoor service. Look for more information coming for this exciting event!

Coborn's brat sale will be Friday and Saturday, June 20th and 21st. Sign up sheets are on the table in the narthex. This is a fund raiser for our youth's summer trip.

Congregational Life will not meet in June and July unless something comes up where we are needed to help.

Remember the suggestion box on the table in the gathering area. Any comments, ideas, etc. will be reviewed by the church council.

Or, contact any of our team!

Stay safe and enjoy a happy summer !

Bev for the team

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. Faith Comforters meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Narthex.

VBS: VBS is right around the corner! We are now having weekly meetings and have our decorating schedule for the last week of May. We are currently looking for more volunteers and have 105 children signed up to attend!

Mother's Day: The photo booth was utilized a great deal on Mother's Day. I saw many families taking pictures and saw some of them on Facebook as well!

We purchased two bouquets to place on the altar in honor of mothers and after service, we brought them to the Little Falls Care Center to enjoy. The residents and staff thought they were beautiful and were thankful for us sharing them.

Amanda Hyatt,
Ministry Volunteer Coordinator
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Youth Director

Happy June! To kick off the summer we will be having a Youth Paintball event on Friday June 6th at 6 p.m. We have also invited the youth group from Living Hope church to join us!

Next month we are headed to Noah's Ark in Colorado. To ensure your youth's expenses are fully covered, there are 2 more fundraisers scheduled for June:

- Friday June 20th and Saturday June 21st we will be selling Brat's at Coborn's from 10 am to 6 pm with 2 hours shifts available.
- Saturday, June 28th we will be selling pizza at the Morrison County fair for Dominoes during the Hairball concert from 5 pm to midnight.

Blessings to All,
Heather Byers

Attendance & Offering

May	4:	141	\$ 5,528
May	11:	144	\$ 3,677
May	18:	140	\$ 4,594
May	25:	106	\$ 4,061

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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May Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting—May 15th, 2025

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

Faye called the meeting to order. Zach opened in prayer.

Additions to Agenda: Glenn asking to add distributing old Bibles across the world and the country to the agenda. He was informed the Missions Team did look at this – they will be looking to have the Gideons come and the Bibles could be donated to them. Zach asked to add repainting the Narthex under new business. Mark moved, Zack seconded to accept the agenda.

Council Secretary's report: Glenn moved to accept minutes as presented. Mike seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Brian shared that revenue is currently \$46,217.40 over budget. This is due to the mortgage principal donation we received. Without that we would be ~\$10,000 behind budget. Actual revenue is behind last year by ~\$3,000. Expenses are running ~\$6,000 less than budgeted. We are ~\$900 over budget on Pastor's Salary & Benefits but ~\$3,000 under budget on Support Staff Salary & Budget. Brian said we are about where we should be at this time of year financially. We have a healthy cash balance. The Sanctuary Chairs Line item on the Cash Balance by Fund Report shows a \$6,739 balance. The balance is actually closer to \$8,200 after adding the money earned from the garage sale and the Easter Breakfast. He let us know it would cost approximately \$20,000 to replace the chairs in the Sanctuary. Also, our internet contract was renewed at a lower rate than last year. Zach moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

Security Team Update (Dave ZumBerge). Dave is in charge of and schedules the Church Security team. He shared who is on the team, security team procedures, and what the guards do during services. He shared what church leadership should do during an active shooter situation. We have a security policy in place. It was requested that the policy be sent to council members. Committee chairs, etc. need to make sure the doors are shut and locked after meetings, special gatherings, etc. Further security options for the church were discussed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor said his focus is to teach and preach so people can share what they believe and why. Baccalaureate is next week. The final confirmation session will be May 28th. Pastor took the staff out for lunch for Administrative Professionals Day. He and Sarah feel very blessed to be here and to work with the staff members here. He will get caught up and be able to do in-person visits soon. There are nine confirmands this year. There will be one confirmand in the fall.

Old Business:

- Sprinkler System Compressor – Faye asked that Tom demonstrate to us what the compressor sounds like when it runs, so we can tell if it runs too much. He will do it after the meeting.
- Staff Lunch – Faye thanked Pastor Mark for taking the staff out to lunch.
- Pastor asked that we be expressive of gratitude to the volunteers who do so much for the church.
- Faye asked that we be thinking about what our focus should be for the future, what our long-range game plan should be now the mortgage is paid off. Do we add on or do we freshen the space we have? Do we focus on improving the Sunday school area or do we get a bus for youth events? Do we replace the sanctuary chairs and paint? She stated it's something the council needs to think about.

New Business:

- Worship Band Key to Office – Justin requested a key for the Worship Team so they can open the Copy Room door. It was suggested that instead the offices should be locked so the copy room is the only one available, for security reasons. Only one lock would need to be purchased if the others were moved where needed. Sarah will work on getting this done.
- June 11th Outdoor Worship & Mortgage Burning – this is still being planned.
- Heather's hours during Colorado trip – how should she be compensated for this six day trip? Chris moved that Heather be paid for 48 hours for the July Colorado trip. Steve seconded. The motion carried.
- Painting – Faye asked that we think about what big projects we want to take on in the next year or two rather than make a decision right now on painting. Brian suggested this be brought to the Finance & Building Committee for consideration.

Reports:

Church Secretary Report – We received a letter from Jet Black about sealing cracks in the parking lot. George Sandy said the parking lot should be fine for another year, so nothing will be done with this at this time. We received a letter from Faith Lutheran Church in Hartwell, Georgia, another LCMC church. They wanted to let us know they prayed for us in a recent service. Pastor will write a thank you note that the council can all sign next month. We received an offer from Morrison County Record to sponsor the Grad Tab for \$46. Zach moved to sponsor the Grad Tab for \$46. Steve seconded. The motion carried.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report – Mainly focused on VBS right now. Volunteers are needed, so please consider volunteering.

Ministry Team Reports

- ◇ Children's (Mike) – They met on May 4th. \$42 for the Easter eggs came from Children's budget. They talked about Celebration Sunday. Teachers are needed for the next season of Sunday school. Time can be short for classes - they discussed continuing classes until the final song is over. Other than that, Sunday School has been going well. The teachers have the option to teach from FaithWeavers or from the sermon text. They discussed the need for volunteers for VBS. Rally Sunday is September 14th.
- ◇ Youth Director Report – Heather asked if the church could create a Venmo account to use for the fair. It was suggested that a card swiper that attaches to a cell phone could be used instead. Amanda has one that we could use. Brian will check into this with Sarah.
- ◇ Congregational Life (Mark) – We raised \$1,581 from the garage sale. 10% of this goes to Missions, the rest goes to the Sanctuary Chairs Fund. They discussed, and planned, for Celebration Sunday. The Committee does not meet in June or July.
- ◇ Finance & Management (Brian) – They met on March 6th. They went over financials, talked about new Sanctuary chairs, and authorized up to \$200 for a 2nd monitor for Pastor. We are saving \$200 this year on our new CTC contract. Money for Pastoral Education that hasn't been used will now roll over and accumulate. Brian will set up a liability fund for that. Tom moved to allow the Education Fund to roll over with a cap of \$6,000. Steve seconded. The motion carried. The idea has been proposed to work on an outdoor worship space for weddings. He asked us to think about this. The Finance Committee recommended changing the entire first row of parking to Handicapped parking. The council decided to keep this on hold until the parking lot is repainted.
- ◇ Mission & Outreach (Tom) – They have \$12,000 in undesignated funds. They are working on getting this disbursed to both current and new ministries. Faye asked they check on having the Gideons share with us again.
- ◇ Worship & Prayer (Faye) – They met. They mostly discussed summer outdoor worship. They are looking more at campfires on the second Wednesday of each month than at outdoor services.
- ◇ Youth & Family/ Youth Director Report (Zach)

Chris moved the meeting be adjourned, Mark seconded. The motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.