



# March

**take up the shield of faith** Ephesians 6:16

**March 2026 Newsletter**

## Take Note...

Online giving now  
available on our website:  
[faithlutheranlittlefalls.org](http://faithlutheranlittlefalls.org)



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

*From Pastor Mark...*

### **Lent in Daily Life**

**"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

Matthew 6:21

### **What is "Lent"??**

The word "Lent" is based on the Middle English word *lente* which meant *spring* which was based on the Old English word *lengten* which meant "to lengthen [the daylight]."

Lent is a period of 40 days – not counting Sundays – prior to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday to commemorate Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness when he prepared for his ministry through prayer and fasting and then was tempted by the devil. Holy Week commemorates Christ's last week of life on earth and is the most important part of lent.

Already, we notice the period of daylight lengthening with each new day. It's a sign that it's time for the season of Lent, which serves as an annual reminder to Christians that we still need to repent; that we still need to engage in the spiritual discipline of study and renewal; that we dare not take our Lord's great gift of grace for granted. During Lent, the days slowly lengthen until they burst into the brilliance of spring on Easter morning.

So it is with our life: We go from the darkness of sin to the light of righteousness in Christ; from despair to hope which is the treasure that only Christ can give.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

## President's Message

Dear Friends of Faith,

**March** 4th, the only day that's also a sentence. ~ John Green

**Marching** in faith signifies our unwavering commitment to the Lord and the promises He has given us. Together, we take steps forward, trusting that God will guide us, light our path, and empower us to overcome any obstacles. Each step we take in our spiritual journey is a testimony of our faith, showing the world that we are children of God. We are not alone; as we **march** in faith, we stand united in our belief, ready to face life's challenges with courage and strength. Standing/**marching** together because:

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor." – Ecclesiastes 4:9*

We are brainstorming on ways to invite others into our church and the many opportunities that are inside these doors. Oh, and outside of these doors too! We are thinking of a community kite flying afternoon! Stay tuned! We are planning to continue with the campfire services this summer and maybe a potluck or two. The new flags should soon be flying! We are also planning ways we can continue to enhance our worship space and take care of our facility. The carpet cleaning looks great! Thank you to the Men's Bible Study group for the new upright freezer! The new chairs are close to becoming a reality! We have a bid for electrical work to enhance our security. We are working off of the priorities you set in the focus groups that met last fall, but please know that we are always open to and looking for new ideas! All of the ideas shared on the surveys or at the focus groups meetings are still on the table.

As a congregation, **March** is also a time to stay connected—to worship together, support one another, and remember that we do not walk this journey alone. In a world that often feels heavy or uncertain, the church remains a place of grounding, hope, and welcome.

As we **march** through these weeks of Lent, may we be reminded of this simple truth: we are loved, we are forgiven, and we are being renewed—again and again.

I try not to limit my madness to **March**.

~ Maxine



## Saint Patrick's Day is March 17<sup>th</sup>

We celebrate Saint Patrick's day to commemorate Saint Patrick, a 5th Century Romano-British Christian Missionary and Irish Bishop. The symbol is a Shamrock or three-leaf clover because he is credited with teaching the Trinity using a shamrock, showing people how there are three leaves in one shamrock like the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## 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

[faithlutheranlittlefalls.org](http://faithlutheranlittlefalls.org)

[secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com)

## Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Newsletter

### 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 at 9. They go over the sermon text for the upcoming Sunday.
3. Mission Quilters meet on Thursdays at 9am in the Narthex.
4. Dig Deep; a study on Christian Doctrine for Women. Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm at church. **Note: the time change taking place during lent**
5. Gospel of John, this is led by Blaine MacNeil. He is leading a comprehensive Bible Study on the Gospel of John. This takes place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in the library. **Note: This study will be paused during lent.**

**Pajama Day:** March 8 is Daylight Savings Day, as we lose an hour of sleep, we are having a Pajama Day!! All children are encouraged to participate in this fun day! Adults, feel free to wear your pj's too!

**Senior Lunch:** Our next Senior Lunch will be Wednesday, March 11 at noon. There will be a program followed by a light lunch. Bring a friend!

**Community Easter Event:** We will be hosting the Community Glowing Easter Egg Hunt again this year!!

This will take place on the evening of Friday, March 27. Time is 6pm-7:30pm,

We are looking for volunteers and bakers!! We will once again have cookies. Please let me know if you are able to help with the event or bake a dozen... or several dozen, of cookies.

Please contact me if you would like to help. Your help is very appreciated!

**VBS:** Vacation Bible School planning has begun! VBS will be held at Grace Covenant this year, June 1-5. If you are interested in helping or would like details about volunteering, please let me know

**Service Volunteers:** Thank you to all those who have been available to assist with Sunday morning service. Just a reminder, sign-up sheets are available on the signup table in the gathering area at church. Online sign-up is also available. To sign-up online, follow the link in the weekly 'Faith Happenings' email or scan the QR Code on the sign-up table in the gathering area at church.

**Update:** We encourage everyone to text "Update" to 320-633-2057. This will help us to keep information updated in our system and we will be able to text important messages and reminders about events.

Some people told me that they liked the text option. Those that have already filled this out were able to receive the message that our evening Tough Talks session was postponed due to weather.

After you text "Update", please follow the link in the text you receive and fill in your information. Thank you for taking time to do this!

**Small Groups:** If you are interested in being in or leading a small group, feel free to contact me, I would love to discuss options with you! My contact info is below.

**Prayer Warriors Wanted:** If you are on the prayer chain, all you have to do is pray when you receive a prayer request! To join the email list, send an email to [secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com). To receive prayer requests by text message, text the word "Pray" to 320-633-2057.

### Upcoming Events (mark your calendars)

**March 8:** Pajama Day at church! Daylight Savings; move clocks forward

**March 11:** Next Senior Lunch

**March 27:** Glowing Easter Egg Hunt returns!

Amanda Hyatt

Office: 320-414-0533

Cell: 320-630-2887

Email: [volunteerfaithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerfaithlutheran@gmail.com)

# Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting

January 15th, 2026

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

Zach called to the meeting to order. Brian opened in prayer. Additions to Agenda: stipend for Nick Leibold for his work with the youth.

**Council Secretary's report:** Chris moved to accept minutes as presented. Tom seconded. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Total Revenues for the year were over budget but less than last year. Expenditures were under budget for the year. Overage of Revenues over Expenditures was less than last year. General Revenues were under budget and under last year. Most line items were under budget this year. There is a discrepancy in the Pastor's Salary & Benefits line item. This should not have come in over budget. It is due to the way we are doing withholding and will be corrected in 2026. Brian will investigate this and report back to the council. Cash flow is quite healthy. Tom moved to accept the financial reports, Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor thanked Sarah and Amanda for keeping things running smoothly in the office. Annual meetings are a time to not only look at the past year but also to look forward and continue to think about how to be faithful in the future. He encouraged us to look at what we do – how we are being evangelical, equipping, and inviting. He is working on sermon and worship prep and is currently planning for Lent through Holy Week. He will be posting office hours: 8:30 am to noon, Monday – Thursday. Appointments can also be scheduled. He will be taking his full day off on Fridays. He is seeking a volunteer musician for the Thursday Nursing Home Triple Header for St Otto's & Little Falls Care Center (dates needed: Jan. 22nd, March 26th, and May 28th). He shared what he has been doing for visits and confirmation

## Old Business:

*Nominating Team Check In:* Tom shared the candidates for Council: Zach Leibold, Faye Sandy, Eric Kahlbrenner, Shelley LeBlanc, Patty ZumBerge, and Jim Nelson. Brian congratulated the Nominating Committee for their good work. Linda moved to accept the nominees as listed, Glenn seconded. The motion carried.

*Newsletter Council Minutes:* Tom moved we leave the November minutes that were published in the newsletter as is and, going forward, include the approved minutes in the newsletter. Brian seconded. The motion carried.

## New Business:

*New Members:* January 25th is New Member Sunday. Chris moved to approve new members Cheryl Aswegan, Tim Olson, Cody & Laci Boody, Shalaine Cook, and Lauren Pietrowski. Mark seconded. The motion carried.

*Stipend for Nick Leibold for his work with the youth:* This would be a stipend; he would not be considered an employee. Brian moved that Nick Leibold be paid a stipend of \$80 per week for his work as Volunteer Youth Pastor. Linda seconded. The motion carried.

## Reports:

Church Secretary Report (Sarah): She is working on reports for the annual meeting. The audit is scheduled for Sunday.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Tom moved to approve the Children's Pajama Day and Glowing Easter Egg Hunt, Pam seconded. The motion carried.

## Ministry Team Reports:

- *Children's (Mike)* – They put away the costumes. They discussed the budget and teacher replacements and clarified some items for the Annual Report.
- *Congregational Life (Mark)* – ~\$2,200 was raised from Christmas Boutique. They discussed New Member Sunday.
- *Finance & Management (Brian)* – Thank you to the congregation for helping get the chairs, etc. moved out of the Sanctuary so the carpet could be cleaned. Men's Bible study put everything back on Wednesday morning. Brian moved to pay \$1,528 to Service Master for cleaning the carpets. Mike seconded. The motion carried.
- *Mission & Outreach (Linda)* – The budget is done, but hasn't been sent out yet. They added a line item for \$500 for Anna Marie's Alliance but their total budget will remain the same.
- *Worship & Prayer* – did not meet.
- *Youth & Family (Renee)* – They talked about Youth Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and discussed summer fundraisers.

*2026 Budget Approval* – Total for the 2026 budget was approved last month. Brian will email the completed budget to the council before the Annual Meeting.

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark seconded. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The January council minutes were approved at the February 19th, 2026 Council meeting.

## Attendance & Offering

February	1:	126	\$ 5,374
February	8:	152	\$ 4,417
February	15:	126	\$ 4,216
February	22:	158	\$ 20,427