



May

take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

May 2025 Newsletter

Take Note...

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faithlutheranlittelfalls.org



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

From Pastor Mark...

Special Days in May

"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Amos 8:7

Mother's Day History

May 11 is Mother's Day and it's a day for everyone to take time to show their mother how much they love and appreciate her.

Nearly 150 years ago, Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community. It was a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. So she called it "Mother's Work Day."

In 1905 when Anna Jarvis died, her daughter, also named Anna, began a campaign to memorialize the work of her mother. Legend has it that young Anna remembered a Sunday school lesson that her mother gave in which she said, "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mother's day. There are many days for men, but none for mothers."

Anna began to lobby prominent businessmen like John Wannamaker, and politicians including Presidents Taft and Roosevelt to support her campaign to create a special day to honor mothers. At one of the first services organized to celebrate Anna's mother in 1908, at her church in West Virginia, Anna handed out her mother's favorite flower, the white carnation. Five years later, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for officials of the federal government to wear white carnations on Mother's Day. In 1914 Anna's hard work paid off when Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday. (source <http://mothers-day.123holiday.net>).

"Thank You" to Sunday School & Youth Group Volunteers

Another year is drawing to a close for our congregation's ministry to the youth. Many thanks to the volunteers who have been involved with Sunday School and the youth group. Their care, concern, creativity, and patience all help nurture the faith of the young people in the parish. We are also thankful for the role of our new youth worker, Heather Byers, in leading the ministry to the youth. Mark your calendar for Celebration Sunday on **Sunday, May 18** which will include a picnic and our annual Lucky Duck Bean Bag tournament. The current reigning champ from the fall 2024 tournament is Heather Byers.

Senior Recognition & Baccalaureate Service Plans

It's also that time of the year when our high school seniors mark their academic achievements with graduation. As a congregation, we will have our Senior Recognition service on **Sunday, May 18**. The Little Falls High School Baccalaureate Service will be held on **Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m.** in the High School Auditorium.

Memorial Day – Never Forget

May 26 is Memorial Day. It's a time to remember and honor those who have given their life in service of our country. May we be mindful of the countless men and women who gave their lives, and the thousands of others who still bear the wounds from putting their lives on the line protecting the freedoms that form the basis of our daily life in this nation. It's comforting to be reminded as we observe Memorial Day that we have a God who always remembers, "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds," (Amos 8:7, Isaiah 49:15). May we, too, always remember.

In Christ, Pastor Johnson

President's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is a little worn piece of paper that hangs on my sewing machine. It is an excerpt from Cure for the Common Life by Max Lucado. Here is what that little piece of paper says.

“Working to Please God

What if everyone worked with God in mind? Suppose no one worked to satisfy self or please the bottom line but everyone worked to please God. Many occupations would instantly cease: drug trafficking, thievery, prostitution, nightclub and casino management. Certain careers, by their nature, cannot please God. These would cease. Certain behaviors would cease as well. If I’m repairing a car for God, I’m not going to overcharge his children. If I’m painting a wall for God, you think I’m going to use paint thinner? Imagine if everyone worked for the audience of One. Every nurse, thoughtful. Every officer, careful. Every professor, insightful. Every salesperson, delightful. Every teacher, hopeful. Every lawyer, skillful. Impossible? Not entirely. All we need is someone to start a worldwide revolution. Might as well be us.”

Ephesians 6:7 “rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to men.”

George and I were big fans of the show “Undercover Boss”. Maybe we should also look at it as God, our undercover boss, is disguised as the tired supermarket manager, the early morning farmer, the pizza delivery person out in a snowstorm, the semi driver after a long haul, or the busy volunteer at Faith Lutheran Church, seeing God in everyone. In God’s house too we should work to please God and see God in everyone. Doing and giving what we can, when we can, where we can. We, at Faith, are very fortunate to have many volunteers. As you and I move amongst them, let us be thankful and never critical even if the job wasn’t done just how you or I would have done it. In God’s house especially, we should work to please God and see God in everyone. “All we need is someone to start a worldwide revolution. Might as well be us”

Happy Spring and Easter! Love, Faye

Children's Team

The children’s team has had a good year with our Sunday School students!!

It’s hard to believe that there are only two more days of Sunday school.

May 11 and the last day of Sunday school for this year will be on May 18.

We are looking forward to VBS this year it will be held at Living Hope Church – June 2-6, 9 am – noon.

It is an awesome fun, faith-filled time for the kids!!

I hope that our children will be able to take part.

If you have any questions, or suggestions- Please reach out to us!!

—Becky Fellbaum

Mission & Outreach Team

The Faith Lutheran Mission and Outreach Ministry Team met on Sunday, April 13, after worship service. The team made several new gifts and also approved its budgeted gifts for March and April including \$1,000 to Terebinth Refuge; \$500 to Hands of Hope Resource Center; \$500 to Kinship of Morrison County; and \$750 to Operation: Heal Our Patriots. The team also discussed making a gift to Youth for Christ in St. Cloud, a ministry now being led by Sara Miller (nee Stanton). It was decided that ongoing monthly gifts in support of youth ministry should be directed to our own youth program, but since we have some excess funds at this time, we will make a one-time \$500 gift to Youth for Christ. The team also discussed making a gift to Ruby’s Pantry (Gail Meyer will help gather details) and will revisit making 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.

Attendance & Offering

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|-----------|-----|-----------|
| April 6: | 152 | \$ 8,482 |
| April 13: | 168 | \$ 13,397 |
| April 20: | 226 | \$ 6,422 |
| April 27: | 135 | \$ 3,739 |

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 Event: The Glowing Easter Egg Hunt was held Friday, April 11. There were about 450 in attendance. The event was scheduled from 6:30pm to 8:00pm however, there was a line that started before 6:00 and we were able to open the doors 15 minutes early.

Kids started with putting glow sticks on and then entered the maze which was in the sanctuary. While in the maze they stopped at checkpoints where they were handed an invite to join us on Sundays, scratch art, a gospel tract, and candy. As they exited the maze, they passed the kitchen and grabbed a couple of cookies.

In the gathering area there were beverages available along with photo booth opportunities and a bubble machine that the kids loved!

We also had two inflatable bunnies jumping around the whole time, they took turns being available at the photo booth and going through the maze. A lot of the kids loved seeing the big rabbits!

After kids finished juice and cookies, they headed down the hallway to the Sunday school rooms. We used 3 Sunday school rooms and the youth group room and had them at difficulty levels, 18 months and under, 2 to 3-year-olds, 4- to 5-year-olds, and 6 and older. Everyone had a great time!

A HUGE thank you to all our volunteers!! Whether you made cookies, helped with set-up/clean-up or during the event, we could not have made this possible without you!

Mother's Day: Mother's Day is a wonderful time to invite your whole family to church! (Ok, really every day is a wonderful day to invite family and friends) This Mother's Day there will be a photo booth available for you to take family pictures!

VBS Registration: It's VBS season!! VBS will be hosted by Living Hope Church this year. If you have not signed your children/grandchildren up 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 2-6). If you are interested in volunteering your time, please speak with me and we will find the spot that fits you best!

Scan the QR code to sign kids up/sign up for volunteering or go to lfmnbvs.churchcenter.com

Please note, the volunteer link is below the map.

Amanda Hyatt,

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

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Youth Director

"May is a month full of growth, warmth, and a fresh start. It's the ideal time of year to consider God's blessings and the splendor of His creation as spring transitions into summer."

Here is the Confirmation & Youth Schedule through the end of May:

- April 30: End of the Month Potluck = Fruit Bar (6:45 - 8 pm)
- May 7 & 14: Confirmation & Youth Group (6:45 - 8pm)
- May 21: Baccalaureate Service (7 pm at LFCHS) No Confirmation or Youth Group
- May 30: End of Year Potluck / All Parents Welcome! (6:45 - 8pm) Please bring a side if you plan to attend!

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

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April Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, April 15th, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order by Faye Sandy. Opening prayer led by Brian Bergs. (Next month's prayer to be led by Zach Leibold)

Additions to the Agenda: Faye called for any additions to the agenda. Sunbeam Boys' Home Support was added to Old Business. Senior Lunch and Sprinkler System were added to New Business. Chris Scholl moved and Steve Tschida seconded to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Council Secretary's Report: Brian Bergs moved and Glenn Hietala seconded to approve the March Council minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Brian shared the year-to-date summary on the budget comparison show our revenues over budget by \$40k. In large part this is due to the large contribution to the mortgage. Removing that from the equation puts us a great deal closer to last year. Actual Revenue is \$66k. At this time last year it was \$68k so we are a little bit behind but it's close. Expenses are behind by about \$6k with a lot of teams staying below their budget so far this year. The Cash Balance By Fund report shows the Building Principal Fund is at \$11k so the council will need to decide where to move these funds. The Statement of Financial Position looks good. Amanda is currently using the Alpha pass through Fund for her event planning, changing the name was discussed as it is no longer being used for Alpha but other events. Zach Leibold moved and Mike Johnson seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Due to a recent virus at Little Falls Care Center, several visits have had to be changed to phone calls and texts for now. A study guide has been created for confirmation to help study for their quiz which will be May 7th with review on May 14th. Staff reviews have been scheduled for the first and second week of May.

Old Business:

Hymnals: Some of the old green hymnals have been given to Pastor Nate to use at his new church and most of the rest will be going to North Carolina this summer to Sola Publishing for recycling as no one else could be found to use them.

24-Hour Prayer Vigil: There are still a few slots available for council members or others to sign up. Prayer reminders have been placed out for people to pick up as well.

Sunbeam Boys' Home Support: Early in 2024 the Sunbeam Boys' Home closed due to discipline issues with staff. The mission trip group who were scheduled to visit were still able to go to Jamaica and work at Spring Village instead. It now sounds like Sunbeam is open and operating again in a smaller setting. Some members who have worked with the Sunbeam Boys' Home in the past requested we look into supporting them again. The council recommends this request be taken to the mission team.

New Business:

Garage Sale & Easter Breakfast Funds: The Congregational Life Team is planning both these events. The Youth will not be able to help with the breakfast. The Funds from these events need to be assigned somewhere. After discussion Brian Bergs moved and Mark Berger seconded to put the funds from these two events toward the Sanctuary Chairs fund. Motion carried.

Mission Builders: An idea was brought forward to look into the Mission Builders Group to help with building when we get to that point. After research it appears they are associated with the ELCA though.

Senior Lunch: Before Covid we had a monthly luncheon with a speaker where we would invite Senior Citizens to attend. We have had some interest in bringing it back. Movie Nights were also brought up as an idea of something to start again. Linda Collins and Faye Sandy will talk about these and ways we could possibly start them up again.

Sprinkler System (Outdoor): Tom Lippert contacted North Central Lawn Care to have them look over the system and repair the broken heads before the system is turned on for the year.

Reports:

Church Secretary Report: Sarah shared that she received the final paperwork from the mortgage company. The Morrison County property tax bill came, this is for the farmland and was \$186 for the year, the full bill was paid. Sarah shared the additional invoice from People's Security company for the equipment from their recent visit. Zach Leibold moved and Brian Bergs seconded to approve the payment to People's Security from the Building Security System Fund. Our contract with CTC is up so we will need to renew to keep our rate. Brian will follow up with CTC. There were two suggestions in the suggestion box. Faye Sandy will follow up with Cheryl Zarns regarding the Spirea needing trimming from her suggestion. Faye Sandy will follow up with Karen Underhill about her suggestion to move the coat rack.

The indoor sprinkler inspection was done on April 10th. Tom Lippert was here and spoke to them during the inspection. Eventually we can get pin holes in the pipes in the attic, it's a concern now that the system is over ten years old. If we do, we will hear the compressor running more often. If so, we will need to have it repaired. Staff should keep an ear out for the compressor running more than usual. Tom Lippert has also completed the gate blocking the attic and it seems to be working well.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Amanda's report shared information about the Glowing Easter Egg Hunt. It was a great event and very well attended. She shared that 11 people had signed up for the 21 Days of Hope emails. We have one person attending who Amanda has arranged rides for, we now have another person requesting Amanda to arrange rides. Due to the difficulty of scheduling this, Amanda is wondering if we could look into alternatives to help like covering the cost of a taxi service. Mother's Day is coming up and as it's the third most attended service after Christmas and Easter, Amanda was hoping to do something nice for this service. The council decided flowers for the altar would be the best idea at this time.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children's Team: (Mike) They met April 6th. The last day of Sunday School and Celebration Sunday were discussed. The leftover Sunday School lessons will be sent home with kids. For Celebration Sunday, May 18th, there will be a picnic after worship. VBS will be at Living Hope June 2-6. Lots of volunteers will be needed. The Easter Egg Hunt will be Easter Sunday, following worship. They discussed the Glowing Easter Egg Hunt and the Palm Procession on Palm Sunday.
- Congregational Life Team: (Mark) The team met April 3rd. The Easter breakfast was discussed as well as the Garage and Bake Sale which is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd. Celebration Sunday was also discussed, there will be grilled hamburgers and hot dogs again. Roadside cleanup will be April 27th.
- Finance & Management Team: Did not meet.
- Mission & Outreach Team: Tom presented the request to send \$500 to Sara Miller for her Youth for Christ Mission. Brian Bergs moved and Tom Lippert seconded to make this payment to Youth for Christ through Sara Miller. Motion carried.
- Worship & Prayer Team: Did not meet. The Altar Guild did meet to discuss the Gluten free communion issue. Next meeting in May.
- Youth & Family Team/Youth Director: Heather and the team are planning for Senior Sunday which will be May 18th with Celebration Sunday. She is also planning fundraising events for the youth, especially the pizza booth at the Morrison County Fair.

Mark Berger and Mike Johnson seconded to adjourn the April Council meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting will take place Thursday, May 15th, 2025.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary