



May

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

May 2022 Newsletter

From Pastor Nate

On Sunday, May 29, we will honor our graduating H.S. Seniors: Carla Bassett, Kristine Biniek, Ella Bjorge, Bradley Fernelius, Abigail Larsen, Jacob Leibold, Tyler Olson, Alexis VonBerge, and Jersey Weiss. They have been a valuable part of our family of Faith. It is always sad to see these young people leaving us as they prepare to move forward in their lives. On the other hand, it is exciting to see where their paths will take them. We hope that we have helped to them establish a firm foundation. In the words of St. Paul, “You who have received Christ Jesus the Lord, live in Him, remain rooted and built up in Him and established in your faith.” (Colossians 2:6-7) This is our hope and prayer for these graduates who have grown into mature young men and women.

Martin Luther taught us that whatever vocation we end up pursuing, we should see it as a calling from God. Luther used several Biblical passages to back up his teaching, including I Corinthians 7:17: “Only, let everyone lead the life which the Lord has assigned them, and to which God has called them.” It is not always apparent what plans God has for his children. But God knows – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Luther reminds us that God gives us our daily bread through the vocations of the farmer, the miller, and the baker. Our labors or vocations should be viewed as gifts from God. Just as God is working through the vocation of others to bless us, He is working through us to bless others.

It does not matter to what vocation God calls us, we all have the opportunity to display and live out our faith as we use our God-given abilities. “Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ that you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)

We know that the majority of young people fall away from the church after High School. Our hope and prayer is that we will keep connected to our graduates and they will remain connected to the Church. And so, I will close with St. Paul’s words of encouragement for our graduating Seniors: “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Together in Faith!
Pr. Nate Bjorge

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

President's Message

Greetings Family of Faith,

Spring seems to be taking its time getting here. It will come. God has promised us the seasons. God has also promised us the salvation that comes through His Son, Jesus. What a holy, blessed assurance that gives us to know our sins can be wiped clean by the blood and sacrifice of our Lord and Savior. We can be renewed by God's amazing grace. If we but turn our lives away from the sins that plague us, God will grant us His mercy. That gives me great hope.

When the grass starts turning green and shrubs and flowers come into bloom I always think that God has "resurrected" the earth from the dead of winter. We can look back and be glad we had winter but the newness of life in the spring is a thing of real beauty. What's done is done. What we have now is the hope for a better today and tomorrow. Renewal. I pray for that.

I feel renewed when I hear beautiful music. I don't care if it's a symphony, some "oldie" that brings back memories, a choir, or song that has wonderful words and melody. Pastor Nate serves us with strong Bible based messages but for me some of the best church services are because of the music. (Sorry Nate.) There are times I get so emotional I can't continue to sing. I thank God for those times. He provided the talent to whoever wrote those songs with such an amazing combination of words and melody. Renewal. For me, music can bring me closer to God. Thank you, Lord.

We have a way to find renewal and hope for the future. In Mathew 7 we read – "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." May we never forget that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are always close by to make our todays and tomorrows fruitful and positive. The hope for things to come. How blessed we are.

I pray your todays and tomorrows are filled with love, peace, and joy.

I thank God for all of you.

Howie



Children's Team

April 10th, 2022

- In Attendance: Pat & Renae Stueber, Becky Fellbaum, Judy Berger, Amanda Hyatt
- VBS was discussed further. If interested in volunteering please call/text Amanda at 320-630-2887.
- Planned Children's Activities for Celebration Sunday
- Easter Eggs will be filled this week for Children's Easter Egg Hunt after service on Easter.

Mission Statement

As Children of God, we are called to love, glorify and submit to the Living Christ, ministering to others by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



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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Mission & Outreach Team

Mission & Outreach Team Membership – Thanks to the addition of Kennard Fellbaum, the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team is now at capacity. Team members include Randy Wolbeck, chair; as well as Pastor Nate Bjorge; Linda Collins, Kennard Fellbaum; Laura Fellbaum; Gail Meyer; Karen Moen; Jim Nelson; Pat Rioux; and George Sandy. Last month (March), it was decided that the *Fund Balances Report* could be eliminated and the totals for our (M & O Team), “Sunbeam/Jamaican Mission” and “Undesignated Missions,” could be handwritten on one of the other reports each month to save paper. Pat will submit the OSAM voucher and work on updating our financials as noted last month—moving the Teen Challenge gift to August and explore if we can add our two *fund balance* figures to the bottom of the Budget Comparison Report.

Lippert’s Trip to Guatemala – Tom Lippert revisited our team to share photos and an update from his and Linda’s visit to Guatemala. A total of 100 new stoves were installed and our gift was 8% of the total stoves. The team from Central MN did surgeries, provided other health services and installed water purifiers as well. Tom thanked our team for the donation on behalf of the residents impacted by the gifts. He also provided some photographs of the stove installation for our bulletin board.

Youth Planning Community Meal – The team received some information some of Faith Youth and Sara Stanton and preliminary plans for a community meal. We were asked to provide input on the plan, which also included a solicitation of a \$250 donation from our team. The plans also include requesting a \$250 Thrivent gift card. Team members provided suggestions as well as a recommendation that one of the youth make a presentation to our team when their plans are more definitive at our May 10 meeting. We also noted that use of our kitchen will require council approval at its May 19 meeting.



Congregational Life Team

I hope you all had a blessed Easter. As we move into May, I'd like to take a moment to wish all of the wonderful mothers in our congregation and in our lives a blessed Mother's Day!

We had an awesome turnout for the Easter breakfast and worship service! An estimated 125 people were served breakfast, \$415 raised for the youth mission trip this summer through free will donations and 269 people attended the worship service. Thank you to all you who set up, cooked, donated food/beverage, served, cleaned up, etc. Your help is much appreciated.

Yet to happen in April is Roadside Cleanup on Sunday, April 24th. Also, the Annual Garage & Bake Sale on Saturday, April 30th, with 10% of the proceeds going to missions and the remainder to be determined.

May is always a busy month at church. Celebration Sunday will be on May 22 with food, fellowship, games & fun, and it officially wraps up Sunday School for the summer.

Senior Sunday is on May 29. This year we are honoring 10 graduating high school seniors. Please join us for a cake reception following the worship service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach to anyone on our team: Jody Cox, Noel Guerard, Justin Juelke, Bev Larsen, Howie Larsen (Council Rep), Greg Rutten, Jackie Rutten Julie Shelstad and Karen Underhill (Council Rep).

Your sister in Christ,

Julie Shelstad on behalf of the team

Youth & Family

In Luke 24:32, the two disciples who encountered the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus asked each other, “Didn’t our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?” The disciples who didn’t recognize Jesus at first, pondered this as they suddenly recognized their close friend. Specifically, they recognized him as Jesus ate a meal with them, *after* Jesus spent the day explaining God’s plan of redemption woven throughout all pages of scripture.

This story is a beautiful reminder that in most peoples’ spiritual journey we recognize Jesus bit by bit and all at once. We can deeply encounter him, yet not recognize it is Jesus until the scriptures click with the combination of a personal interactions with Jesus. For example, in this story it was eating a meal since that is something Jesus had done with these two disciples countless times. Would you continue to pray for our youth to have personal encounters with the risen Lord, for their hearts to burn with adoration for Jesus, and for their head knowledge to become heart knowledge as they recognize the Lord more clearly?

The end of the school year always seems to go by quickly! Upcoming we have a handful of **youth-led service projects** planned by the youth who participated in deep dives. Some of the ideas include a free community meal, making tie blankets for residents at the nursing home where our students work, yard work, and caring for animals at the humane society.

We start May with **First Wednesday Worship and Prayer Night** on May 4th. There will be a free meal served at 6:30 for all congregation members. To conclude our current youth series on mental health, we will have a panel for the youth on May 11th, featuring different perspectives from people who follow Jesus yet live with a mental illness. The **End of the School Year Party** is Wednesday, May 18th 6:45-8:15. This will be our last Wednesday night of the school year for both confirmation and youth group. We will celebrate school **almost** being done with Woodchuck Wood Fired Pizza, outdoor games, a bonfire, and devotional. As always, youth are encouraged to invite their friends. Further, we will celebrate our high school graduates on Sunday, May 29th. Please keep your eye out in the gathering area for the senior journals to write a prayer or word of encouragement to our seniors.

In Christ,
Sara Stanton



Middle school youth enjoy connecting with Jesus and others at the Spring Retreat at Camp Shamineau April 22-24.

April Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, April 21st, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Judy Berger, Steve Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Joe Hyatt, Howie Larsen, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Renae Stueber and Pastor Nate

Absent: Tom Lippert and Karen Underhill

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen and opening prayer led by Steve Fellbaum. George Sandy moved and Denny Myers seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Jim Nelson moved and Joel Hanson seconded to accept the March Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah also shared some suggestions from the suggestion box. Suggestions will be followed up by Finance team or council members if possible. A small new vacuum is needed for cleaning at the church. Howie Larsen moved and George Sandy seconded to approve the purchase up to \$300. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Year-to-date we are about \$1,000 ahead of budget in revenue. We are also over expenses for the year, although many of the utilities should significantly lower when the weather is warmer so it will likely balance out later. The Finance Team is continuing to work on the cross installation. Jim Nelson moved and George Sandy seconded to accept the March Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Youth Director's Report: Sara Stanton's report shared Deep Dive Groups recap, Summer Mission trip updates as well as the High School Spring Retreat and Youth Group Movie night information. Coming up the Youth have the Middle School Spring Retreat, the Mental Health Panel and Parent Workshop, some Deep Dive Service Projects, the End of School Year Party on May 18th, the Little Falls Baccalaureate on May 25th, Senior Sunday May 29th and Celebration Sunday in conjunction with the Children's Team on May 22nd.

Sara also has a Facility Request form in for the Spectacular Spring Supper on May 24th. The council had more questions regarding this service project so they hoped to get more information before approving the Facility Request Form.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate shared Adult Education is going well and they will be exploring the difference between Pentecostals like the Assembly of God church this week. Confirmation started again on April 20th. There will be a baptism on May 8th. Thomas Kroll and Tessa Bell will begin pre-marriage counselling and the baptism of their baby will be coming up as well. Pastor Nate has continued to do visitations to nursing home or to homebound members. Pastor Nate will be gone April 26-28th for a Pastor/Spouse retreat in Iowa.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

Children's Team: Sunday School ends May 22nd and Celebration Sunday plans are underway for that day. It will be a potluck again with the church providing hot dogs and hamburgers. VBS planning is still going on as well, there are many volunteer opportunities.

Congregational Life Team: A Kitchen checklist was shared. The Brat sale at Coborn's is scheduled for June 10-11.

Leanne Wolbeck made new labels for the kitchen cabinets and drawers. About 125 were served at the Easter Breakfast.

Finance & Management Team: Had a very brief meeting before Maundy Thursday worship. The cross is ordered, electrical will be worked out after it's up. The Key Policy draft was shared and will be discussed next month. Snow Plow service was reviewed. They are still working on the entryway lights and are considering the Gathering Area lights as well.

Mission & Outreach Team: Teen Challenge donation has been moved to August when they come to worship, Tom & Linda Lippert shared the recap of their mission trip with HELPS international. The Youth request is waiting for more information from the youth.

Worship & Prayer Team: Meeting scheduled for May 1st.

Youth & Family Team: It's recommended a report of projected costs for the Summer Mission trip be provided to make sure they have enough income to cover the costs.

By-Laws Change: Tabled until fall.

Survey Update: The focus groups information, which is back from Mary was shared. The team will be meeting again on May 3rd to discuss further steps.

Land Sale Update: Andy's Bus Service is looking to buy 3 acres. He would be willing to pay \$4,000/acre. The idea of selling any land needs to go to the congregation before anything could move forward and much more information would be needed regarding steps to take. Howie will bring this to the congregation on April 24th.

Bulletin Board: The pictures and information about council members on the bulletin board has been updated but the Ministry Teams still need to be updated.

New Business:

Faith Clothing Order: Amber Rausch would be willing to do a Faith Clothing order again. Likely in the fall but a team should approve the designs before we move forward. The council decided to have the Worship & Prayer Team approve the design.

Denny Myers moved and Joel Hanson seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place May 19th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

April	3:	205	\$ 9,105
April	10:	172	\$ 5,407
April	17:	269	\$ 6,330
April	24:	149	\$ 9,611