

## LETTER OF FAITH

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY/AUGUST 2022

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

### Did God create evil?

*"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14.*

There has been a lot of tragedy in our world. It seems to be more tragedies than we can count recently. Mass shootings, the pandemic, violence to report every time we watch the news. Every time there is a tragedy, or some wickedness in the world, the first thing often uttered is "Why did God create evil?" or "Why did God allow this to happen?" Well, God did not create evil. In Genesis, we read that God created and it was good. The absence of good is evil. So, God did not create evil, evil manifested itself when humans quit being good. We were created along with all of creation. However, God gave us something that we often forget about. God did not create us as puppets. He created us with free will. That's right. We have the freedom to do whatever we want. If God had created us any other way, we would be like puppets on a string with God making sure that we always did good.

But we were given the freedom to choose and as you know we all make poor choices sometimes. God is a loving God and he mourns with us when we mourn. He sheds tears when we cry.

God wants to heal. God wants to forgive. But by God's own sovereign design, whether he gets what he wants in each particular instance is affected by us, not God. As the scripture above says, it is affected by whether we humble ourselves, whether we pray, whether we turn from our wicked ways, and who we associate with just to name a few.

Will God intervene? Yes, we know that he sometimes does when we pray to him and ask for his will to be done. But we must pray. We must talk to him. We must ask him to help us make better decisions and not dwell in the evilness of this world.

God did not cause the many mass shootings in schools and elsewhere. He did not cause people to be killed and maimed. Evil caused that tragedy to happen. Where there is chaos, there you will find evil. The devil and his army are alive and well in this world.

While God did not cause the tragedy, he was there. He was there alongside the victims, saddened by what the evil of this world does. The victims voiced their belief that God did not cause this but that he was there with them, comforting them and holding them in his arms.

Evil will never totally go away in this world but as Christians we know that God is there through trials and tribulations. That's where we as Christians turn, don't we? We turn to God who has promised us good. Those who succumb to evil, need our prayers.

Faith Lutheran Church

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320-589-2970

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Youth Director of Fusion Ministry

Heather Black

Pianist Rita Lambert

Director of Music John Kleinwolterink

Custodians Ryan & Cassie Snyder

Website Anne Mittness

### Faith Lutheran Mission Statement:

*"Faith Lutheran is a  
community of believers  
living out our faith in  
daily life."*

Remember to check the website for future happenings at Faith. If you know someone who does not have access to the website remember to share information with them.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 589-2970.

*Pastor Vicki's Letter Continued*

So, let us draw closer to God. Let us spend more time in prayer and studying of Scripture. Let us pray for the victims in these tragedies.

And let us remember these words from Jesus "I'll be with you, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b The Message

In Christ, Pastor Vicki

### Church Without Walls Sunday, September 11

Mark this date on your calendar.

The Celebrate and Share Ministry is working on setting up projects for this day. Watch and listen for more information about this day in the September Newsletter, church bulletins, at church and on the website. Plans are to have lunch with First Lutheran in the park.



### Congregational Transitions

Funeral

June 30, 2022

Arthur Rudolph Kahleck

**Cancer Patient Support Group**

**Began on Monday, June 27 with plans to meet once a month.**

Please contact Bridget Joos 320-287-0140 for more information about this group. This is designed to support individuals who are living with a diagnosis of cancer.



### Come and Celebrate Gladys Helberg's 100th Birthday

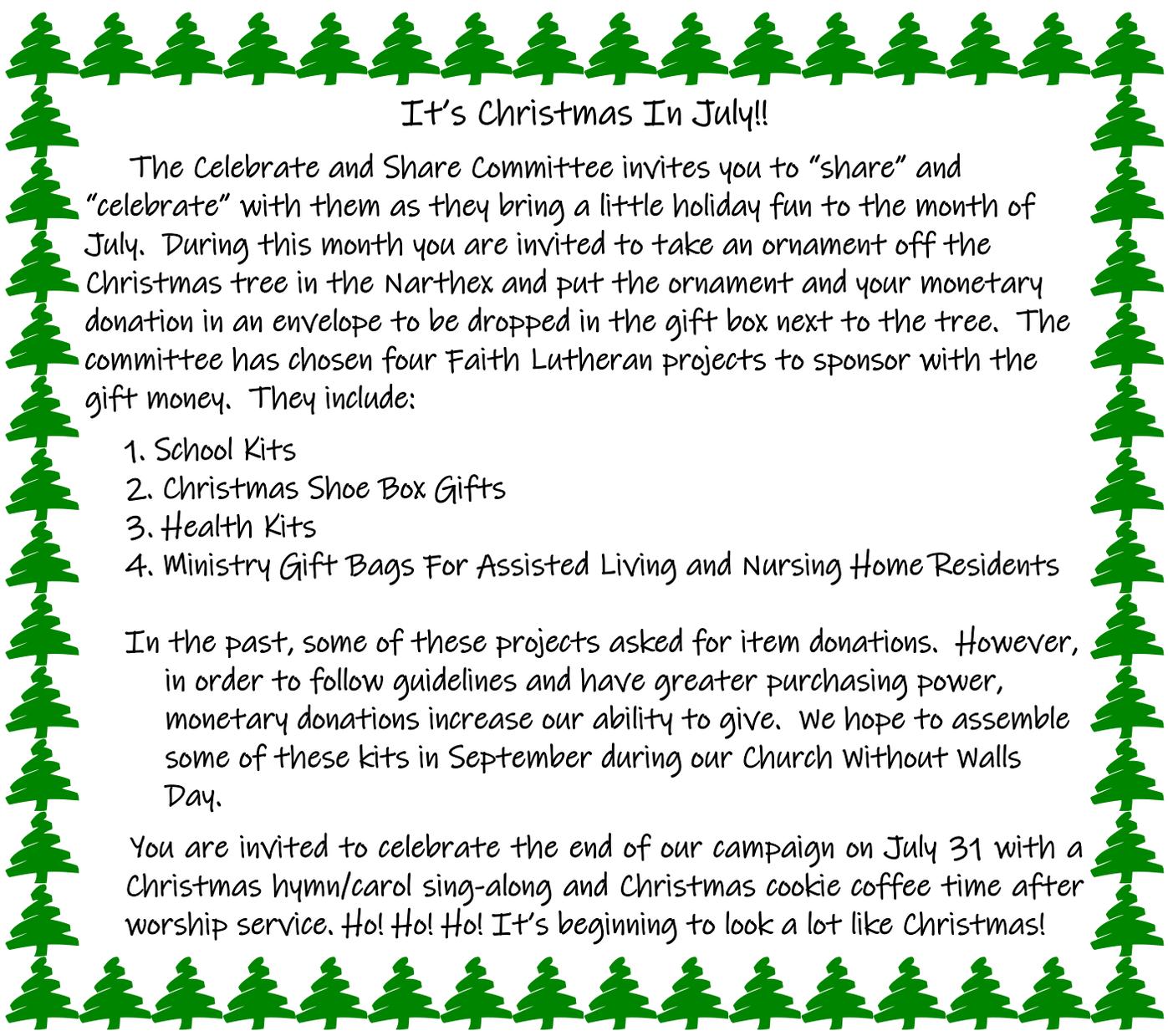
*Come Visit and Celebrate with Gladys and her family*

**Wednesday, August 17th**

**Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall**

**Open House Celebration from 2:00-4:00**

*All are Welcome and Invited to attend*



## It's Christmas In July!!

The Celebrate and Share Committee invites you to "share" and "celebrate" with them as they bring a little holiday fun to the month of July. During this month you are invited to take an ornament off the Christmas tree in the Narthex and put the ornament and your monetary donation in an envelope to be dropped in the gift box next to the tree. The committee has chosen four Faith Lutheran projects to sponsor with the gift money. They include:

1. School Kits
2. Christmas Shoe Box Gifts
3. Health Kits
4. Ministry Gift Bags For Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents

In the past, some of these projects asked for item donations. However, in order to follow guidelines and have greater purchasing power, monetary donations increase our ability to give. We hope to assemble some of these kits in September during our Church Without Walls Day.

You are invited to celebrate the end of our campaign on July 31 with a Christmas hymn/carol sing-along and Christmas cookie coffee time after worship service. Ho! Ho! Ho! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Vacation Bible School will be July 18th—July 21st from 8:45am—3:00pm at Faith Lutheran Church      The theme will be "Boundless"

Luther Crest Bible Camp will be leading the program

Registration is online with LCBC.

The LCBC VBS will be for those who have completed Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Register:      Go online to <https://www.luthercrest.org/camp1.html>  
Click on "Off Site Registration"  
Create an account  
Select "Add New Program"  
Enter GHR ID:FMDay22

Hosted by:  
First Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, St. Johns/  
Kongsvinger Lutheran, and Faith Lutheran  
Churches



*Looking forward to a GREAT time at VBS!!*

## Fall Event/Luncheon

Watch for details coming in the September Newsletter

The Congregational Life Ministry is planning a Fall Event. This event will include lunch, Bingo and a local speaker.

Everyone has had a great time at the previous luncheon events and the committee is looking forward to having this event in the fall.

### Property and Safety Ministry

An update from the Property and Safety Ministry.

There have been some roof leaks at church. The company that was contacted is working on this—hopefully it will be taken care of soon.

We have had pest control come—there has been a problem with some ants—they sprayed around the church and outside of the building.

The committee plans to have meetings at least bi-monthly to perform small tasks around the church.

The chair of the committee is Timothy Uphoff.

If you have any concerns/questions please contact Timothy or one of the Council Reps on the committee—Eric Meichsner or Zach Arnold

Note on Ministry Meetings and Church Council Meeting during the summer.

Some of the groups take a month or two off from meetings during the summer months.

Please watch your email and text messages for updates on meetings.

Thank You to all of the Ministry Group members!!

### Come join us for a Book Club at Faith Lutheran Church on the last Monday of each month at 1:30

*All are Welcome.*

July 25 “Oh My Stars” by Lorna Landvik

August 29 “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles

Please bring book suggestions so we can plan a few months ahead.

**Happy Reading!**



***Open House Bridal Shower for Erin Koehntop***

**Saturday, July 9**

**10:00am-Noon**

Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

**All are invited and welcome to attend**

**JOIN US FOR MISSION: STITCH!**

**Tuesday afternoons in the lounge at Faith Lutheran Church.** They are taking a couple of weeks break—but will begin again on Tuesday, July 12th .

**TUESDAYS beginning at 1:30**

**Come when you can, stay as long as you feel like it. You do not need to be present for the whole time. This group is open to anyone. You do not have to be a member of Faith Lutheran – invite your friends, family, anyone who is interested in joining us.**

**Questions—talk to Anita Stoker**

**Radio Broadcast—**

**Faith Lutheran sponsors the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Worship eight times during the year—if you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in honor or memory of someone, please call the church office. The cost is \$65.00 per time.**

**THANK YOU**

**Radio Broadcast—Daily Devotions Sponsorship**

The daily devotion radio broadcasts (Monday—Friday) on KMRS and KKOK are \$90.00 per week—if you would like to help with this ministry please call the church office and let us know. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank You!

**Church Council Meeting July 10**

***(Sunday)***

10:00 Following the Worship Service

**Offering**

Some church members have asked about offering and ways to give

- In the offering plates on Sunday
- Drop off/mail to the church
- On Line—check the church website and follow the link
- Simply Giving/Vanco—stop in the church office to sign up for this method

**THANK YOU**

**Needed for Stevens County Food Distributions this summer—paper**

**grocery bags. If you have bags you can**

**donate—please drop off at the church.**



**THANK YOU—!!**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your support of these youth! We will be doing various work projects ranging from clearing brush, painting homes, light home repair, as well as helping to lead a kid's club with the local children in the area.

Please pray as we head off on our adventure to Spindale, NC in the Blue Ridge mountains.

Pray that we would be open to learning from the community we are visiting and that we grow closer to Jesus.

Pray for the YouthWorks staff who are living in Spindale all summer and will be leading us during the trip.

Pray for the community members that we meet – that we could love and honor them well.

Pray for safety.

Pray for the adult leaders – that we could really lead this trip in a fresh and effective way!



*STUDENTS:*

*PIPER SWANSON, SARAH DOUGHERTY, MICAH ULRICH, JASON CHRISTIANS, ISAAC JUST, DAVID BLACK JR., EVAN OBERG, TRUETT & WESLEY RICHARDS, HANNAH SCHNEIDER, LILIA ASMUS, BRYN LONERGAN, JAEYDEN MARQUART*

*ADULTS:*

*HEATHER & DAVID BLACK, PASTOR CHRIS RICHARDS, AMY DOUGHERTY*

**WHAT is Wednesday Night Alive?**

Wednesday Night Alive is time to gather together to hear stories from life that connect the messages of God's love for all people.

Come for the stories – shared by speakers who know and have experienced God's powerful love in the face of life's many challenges. Come hear the message of God's mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Come for community, come for the food! All people are welcome – period. No time for a meal before Wednesday Night Alive? Join us for a **FREE** meal at Old #1 Southside! Our gift to you! Meal starts at 6pm.



**Location:**

Old #1 Bar & Grill, Southside  
412 S Atlantic Ave  
Morris, MN 56267

**SCHEDULE:**

Speakers from Minnesota Youth Alive

July 6<sup>th</sup> – Bobby Loukinen

July 13<sup>th</sup> – Reggie Dabbs

July 20<sup>th</sup> – Richard Baker

July 27<sup>th</sup> – Terrance Talley

### Noisy Offering Sunday

#### July 10 will be the next time

The second Sunday of each month will be Noisy Offering Sunday – remember to bring your change to church for the children to collect in buckets.

October amount collected was \$158.23

November amount collected was \$209.05

December amount collected was \$124.42

January amount collected was \$94.60

February amount collected was \$160.43

March amount collected was \$114.54

April amount collected was \$150.92

May amount collected was \$101.05

June amount collected was \$159.79

**TOTAL Collected—\$1,273.03**

*Thank You to Everyone*

### Gatherings for Widows and Widowers

Please join with others who have experienced the loss of their spouse, partner or significant other for a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation.

*Gatherings* for Widows and Widowers will meet for lunch, 12:00 noon, at **Old #1** on **Sunday, July 10** and **Sunday, August 7**. Order and purchase your lunch, and enjoy the company of others.

For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home 320-589-3220. Listen to KMRS/KKOK for schedule changes!

### Items for the Restoration Center at Central Lutheran

They are always in need of men's clothing, socks, underwear and shoes. Also suitcases with wheels that work. Some of their clients are beginning to be able to move into apartments so they can use items such as bedding, towels, silverware, dishes, etc. Thank you for your generosity to this project.

*It truly is greatly appreciated.*

**If you are going to the cities and could take a load to Central Lutheran please let us know – Thank You**

### 2022 Stevens County Food Distribution

July 12th                      August 9th                      Tuesdays

Location                      **Morris Area High School, 201 South Columbia Ave (South Parking Lot), Morris**

**Registration starts at 3:00pm/ends at 6:00pm**

**Get Help**                      They are making the 2022 food drops as safe as possible. **You will remain in your vehicle at all times.** There will be someone to direct parking with curbside food registration and delivery. Please respect the parking limitations and not crowd other vehicles. They will not be liable for any damages or accidents.

**Donate**                      If you would like to contribute funds to help make the Food Distribution possible, make checks payable to: Stevens County Food Shelf Food Drop Program, 701 Iowa Ave, Morris. You can also drop off checks at the Stevens County Food Shelf Attn: Food Drop Program

**Volunteer**                      Would you like to volunteer your time to the Food Drop Program?

**Ways to Help:** Packaging Food; Help with Distribution and Clean-up

**They need volunteers on Mondays (July 11 and August 8) beginning at 1:00 to bag the items and Tuesdays (July 12 and August 9) beginning at 2:30 for the distribution of items. More information at church.**

**Also needed—Willie's Supervalu grocery bags—may be dropped off at the church—thank you!**

## July Daily Bible Verses

1. II Timothy 1:12	11. Psalm 111:9	21. I Corinthians 2:9
2. Luke 22:31,32	12. Psalm 111:10	22. I Peter 2:24
3. I John 3:3	13. Hebrews 13:5	23. Ephesians 4:29
4. Proverbs 29:25	14. Ephesians 5:1,2	24. Ephesians 4:30-31
5. Psalm 91:1,2	15. John 16:13	25. James 1:2,3
6. I John 5:1	16. Matthew 8:16,17	26. I John 4:10,11
7. Proverbs 2:5,6	17. Micah 7:19	27. Psalm 27:14
8. I John 4:1,2	18. Joshua 1:9	28. John 8:31,32
9. Deuteronomy 6:13-15	19. Psalm 27:1	29. Psalm 57:2, 3
10. Luke 24:46-48	20. James 3:13	30. Psalm 115:1
		31. James 1:17

## August Daily Bible Verses

1. Luke 1:46,47	11. Hebrews 4:16	21. Isaiah 61:10
2. Isaiah 54:10	12. Psalm 95:6,7	22. Revelation 22:12
3. Habakkuk 3:18	13. I Peter 2:9,10	23. Psalm 27:1
4. II Corinthians 7:1	14. Joshua 1:9	24. Romans 5:1,2
5. Romans 1:16,17	15. Isaiah 54:17	25. Colossians 3:12,13
6. James 1:12	16. II Corinthians 6:2	26. Mark 11:25,26
7. Ruth 1:16,17	17. I Corinthians 15:47-49	27. John 20:29
8. Romans 12:12	18. Hosea 2:19,20	28. John 20:30,31
9. II Corinthians 13:4	19. Ephesians 6:10,11	29. I Peter 1:7,8
10. Ephesians 4:29-32	20. Psalm 25:4,5	30. I Peter 1:24,25
		31. Revelation 1:4-6

### YOUR PRAYERS NEEDED

-Pray for our ongoing ministry as we join with our brothers and sisters in ministry from South Africa. Pray for the churches of the South Eastern Diocese of South Africa.

-Pray for Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson and their children who are serving in Tanzania.

Psalm 119:105

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.* (NRSV)

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Highlights

June 12, 2022

**Members Present:** Pastor Vicki, Lynnae Lina, Connie Tschetter, Vicky Dodsall, Todd Hodenfield, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, and Nancy Olson

**Members Absent:** Eric Meichsner, Mike Nordquist, Tony Reimers, Mark Torgerson (available for vote, if needed)

**Guest(s):** None

**Call to Order:** Liz

**Opening Prayer & Devotion:** Pastor Vicki

### REPORTS

#### Pastor's Report:

-Shut in visits  
-Upcoming week off and some working from home.  
-Sharing the peace coupled with the announcement was successful.

#### Connie's Report:

Written Report Shared

#### Fusion Youth Update:

Financial report shared. Fusion will take the month of June off as far as programming goes.

#### Call Committee Report:

RMPs were slow right after Easter. Two candidates have since come forward and the call committee will be doing a first round interview for each. The committee has also created a church "look book" to share with candidates showcasing the church.

#### Ministry Reports:

-Congregation Life - No meetings until later summer. (Jenny & Tony)  
-Outreach - Breakfast was held with proceeds going toward missionaries. (Chris)  
-Worship & Music - Planning outdoor worship service(s) for summer. Looking for people to lead services when Pastor Vicki is gone. Todd is working on interview sermons. (Liz)  
-Memorial/Endowment - No Report (Mark)  
-Property & Safety - The bat guy did an inspection and will send a bid. Other pest control was suggested. Roof contractors have been contacted as well. (Zach)  
-Education - Looking at changing curriculum for Sunday School. Thanking Sunday School teachers. Luther Crest is leading VBS. (Vicky)  
-Celebrate & Share - Care packages for shut-ins and various sites. Interview sermons. Working on "Christmas in July" (Todd)  
-Women of Faith - Meatball supper planning underway. Narthex remodeling discussed. (Nancy)

**Secretary Report:** MMSP

**Treasurer's Report:** MMSP

### OLD BUSINESS

**Worship Service:** Online engagement continues to be good.

**Covid Protocols & Guidelines:** Continue to monitor, especially with high-touch activities such as communion, offering, and kitchen. Options exist for those areas of worship and announcements will continue. Start working toward "living with COVID." Add "online giving" as a slide to the "before church" rolling announcements.

#### Excess Funds:

\$72,878.94 in 2021, Per Annual Meeting Excess Funds  
Distributed to:

Local - Stevens County Food Shelf \$3,000.00

Regional - Luther Crest Bible Camp 3,000.00

Global-Swanson-Missionaries-Tanzania \$3,000.00

Possible Money for Electronic Equipment \$3,000.00

Office Manager - Pension \$1,000.00

Office Manager - Bonus \$2,000.00

\$72,878.94

(15,000.00)

= \$57,878.94 Total transferred to Reserve

**Facility Improvement Committee:** Women of Faith and the Property Committee collaboratively met. A few notable points included:

-Hiring work done with bids being placed with at least two contractors from each facet of the project.

-Rely on the professionals for their expertise.

-The goal for the project completion is the end of the summer 2022.

-The facility improvement committee will make decisions and report back to the council.

-Congregational vote will be placed in regard to the financial aspect of the project.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Roof:** Representatives from the Property & Safety committee are working with a contractor regarding roof repairs.

**Bat & Pest Update:** Representatives from the Property & Safety committee are working with contractors regarding bat and pest control.

**Office Hours:** List the office hours in the bulletin and on the doors. The office will be closed Friday afternoons.

**Other:** None

**Next Council Meeting:** Sunday, July 10, 2022

**Adjournment & Lord's Prayer**

*Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Maras - Council Secretary*

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108 West Eighth Street  
Morris, MN 56267

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MORRIS, MN 56267

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<b>Office Manager</b>	<b>Connie Tschetter</b>	<b>faithful@hometownsolutions.net</b>
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<b>Pianist</b>	<b>Rita Lambert</b>	
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>John Kleinwolterink</b>	
<b>Custodians</b>	<b>Ryan &amp; Cassie Snyder</b>	
<b>Website</b>	<b>Anne Mitteness</b>	

**Congregational Church Council**

<b>Liz Spohr —President</b>	<b>Lynnae Lina—Vice President</b>		
<b>Jenny Maras —Secretary</b>	<b>Mark Torgerson—Treasurer</b>		
<b>Zach Arnold</b>	<b>Vicky Dosedall</b>	<b>Todd Hodenfield</b>	<b>Chris Hopkins</b>
<b>Eric Meichsner</b>	<b>Mike Nordquist</b>	<b>Nancy Olson</b>	<b>Tony Reimers</b>

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**Website**      [www.faithlutheranmorris.org](http://www.faithlutheranmorris.org) (Worship Services can be viewed on the website)