

## LETTER OF FAITH

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2022

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

Easter greetings to you and yours,

As I write this on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April, we are entering into the 2nd week of Easter. Before we lose our Easter enthusiasm I wanted to inspire and encourage you to remain enthusiastic and filled with the Holy Spirit to continue the fine work you do here at Faith Lutheran Church. For if we lose our excitement for serving our risen Lord, apathy often takes its place.

Apathy is our enemy as we work to further God's kingdom here on earth. When we become apathetic, we just don't care what happens in our congregation, our community, our circle of friends. We become uninterested in being a part of our future in these groups and soon lose any ownership we have in organizations or groups.

We can't let that happen to us here. I am asking each and every one of us to pray, ponder our relationship with God, and then act on the outcome of that time of meditation. Whatever you feel God is calling you to do, say yes. Become more involved in our congregation and our community and the world.

This is a very active church but there are always people who want to become more involved but don't know what they can do.

Our homebound are always looking for visitors, calls, or cards to brighten their day. You could also deliver the Sunday bulletin to the homebound.

We can always use readers, communion servers, Sunday School teachers, and musicians to join our groups.

If you are available during the day, check out Do Days and Mission Stitch, both on Tuesdays.

We are a part of the priesthood of all believers. We need you as we work together to strengthen the church.

You can let Connie or myself know if there's something you hear God calling you to do.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me. In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress." Philippians 4:13-14

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Vicki Toutges

[vtoutges001@luthersem.edu](mailto:vtoutges001@luthersem.edu)

Faith Lutheran Church

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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 Mitteness

### 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.

**Your Favorite Bible Verse**

A couple of months ago, I talked about favorite Bible verses in the newsletter. I asked for some of your favorite Bible verses so we could share them with everyone. It's so hard to pick favorites, even if you could pick as many as you want to. Here are the results:

"Be still and know that I am God.", "Jesus wept," and "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Anonymous

Psalm 46:10-11 "Be still and know that I am God! I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Ten years ago, when we were losing our son to cancer I was going through a terrible night of prayer and worry! I was in anguish! I prayed the prayer that Jesus prayed in Gethsemane. "Lord, take this cup from us!! I heard a voice say "Be still and know that I am God!!!" It helped calm me. Gary Uphoff

"Keep me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8. Believers are the center of God's attention, approved and accepted unconditionally. He loves us in spite of our faults. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:23. Paul states in Romans 8:28 knowing that all work performed "for the Lord" will someday be rewarded. Awesome! "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16.

Anonymous

When my son Nick died, I remember clinging to these verses: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." "He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children." Romans 21:4-7. These verses comforted me as I grieved losing Nick. Pastor Vicki

***Congregational Transitions*****Wedding**

April 2 Morgan Kirwin and Hunter Vogt

**Baptism**

April 3 Amelia Nicole Riley  
Daughter of Eric and Shanda Riley

**Funeral**

April 22 Dorothy Wells Farwell

We have so many church members who



make the Faith Lutheran building and yard look so nice for us and for visitors to our church.

We are Blessed with many GREAT volunteers who are so talented and hard working. They beautify the church in many ways. ***Thank You to all of YOU!***

## CONGRATULATIONS to High School Graduates

Noah Amundson	Travis Fults
Emily Hamm	Bailey Hottovy
Sam Jordan	Brenna Kirwin
Samuel Kleinwolterink	Hailey Lesmeister
Molly LeTendre	Jack Mahoney
Evan Oberg	Taryn Picht
Dylan Rose	Cole Wenthe

*These graduating seniors will be recognized on Sunday,  
May 22nd at the 9:00 worship service.*

*Congratulations Graduates—!!*



## First Communion Students

*The 5th Grade Students are having  
classes with Pastor Vicki—they will  
receive their First Communion May 8.*

*The students are:*

Miles Banta	Landon Cihak
Macen Koehler	Josie Looker
Madison Manthei	Alexis Pekarek
Lexi Smith	Jacie Wenthe



## 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!

## Baby Shower—Anna (and Tyler) Moser

An open house come and go baby shower honoring  
Anna Moser will be on Saturday, May 21, 2022  
from 9am to 11am.

Location: The Fireside

Bring a pack of diapers for a chance to win a Target  
gift card.

Registered at Target and Amazon

Hosted by Grandma Deb Larsen

## *May the Lord reward you for your kindness. Ruth 1:8*

Charlie and I would like to thank the members as  
well as the non-members of Faith Lutheran for  
their generosity regarding both of our Lenten  
Meal Fundraisers.

A refrigerator was purchased so that the  
Communion supplies can now be stored away from  
food items in the kitchen and clean up can be  
completed out of the kitchen area as well.

\$609.30 was sent to ELCA Disaster Response to  
assist people in need during times of crisis.

Thank-you,  
Charlie and Deb Hacker



Vacation Bible School  
July 18-21

**Church Council Meeting May 8**  
**(Sunday)**

10:00 Following the Worship Service

**Burgers, Beverages and Blessings**

Wednesdays at 6:00

Join us at The Fireside, Morris

***Mission:Stitch***

**JOIN US FOR MISSION: STITCH!**

Tuesday afternoons in the lounge at Faith Lutheran Church



**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

**Do Days**

Will meet on **all Tuesdays in May beginning at 9:00am**

Bring a sack lunch

**All are welcome**

*No experience necessary*

**Come for the fellowship**



**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**

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Y



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

*All are Welcome.*

May 23rd (Change of date because of Memorial Day)

May “The Last Green Valley” by Mark Sullivan

June “The Four Winds” by Kristin Hannah

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

**Happy Reading!**





**Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Sr. High Fusion: 6:30-8pm@First Lutheran Church

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Mother's Day!! No Sr. High Fusion. Go celebrate your mom or someone who is a mother figure in your life!

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Mission Trip Training Meeting!

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Sr. High Fusion: We will be doing the Escape Room in Alexandria (contact Heather for more information).



**Element Schedule: Youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Wednesdays at 6-7:30pm!**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** – Last Element of the school year. (Details will be communicated via email & the reminder app.)

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** – Mission Trip Training Meeting! 6:30-8pm@First Lutheran Church

Sometimes plans change so please check out Fusion's updated website for more information.

[www.fusion-ministry.com](http://www.fusion-ministry.com)

Join us on social media Facebook@fusion56267 and Instagram@fusion56267

**Stepping Stones**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**Blessing For Mothers' and Fathers' Day –Sunday, May 8**  
at the 9:00 service.

The students will be given a book called For Everything There is a Season: 75 Blessings for Daily Life by the Nilsen family who used to serve at Faith Lutheran.

**Open House Baby Shower**

for **Beth (and Nic) Heck** at  
Faith Lutheran Church

When: **Saturday, May 21**

Time: 1:00-3:00pm

They are having twins.

*All are Welcome*

Dear Church Family!

We are going on a mission trip!! I want to share with you about an exciting opportunity that Fusion is doing this summer. 17 youth and adults are going on a mission trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Rutherford County, NC July 17th—23rd with an organization called YouthWorks! Here are the youth and adults who are signed up to go! Youth: Piper Swanson, Sarah Dougherty, Micah Ulrich, Jason Christians, Isaac Just, David Black Jr., Truett Richards, Evan Oberg, Lilia Asmus, Hannah Schneider, Bryn Loneragan, Wesley Richards & Jayden Marquart. Adults: Heather & David Black, Pastor Chris Richards & Amy Dougherty.

On this trip our group will experience the great beauty of both people and nature in the scenic small towns that surround the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. By participating in children's ministry, completing work projects and supporting local ministries, we'll make connections with the people of the area while addressing some significant needs. We may serve at a food pantry, clothing distribution center, soup kitchen, or by assisting with youth programming at a local YMCA. We may also serve through community beautification projects, gardening, painting, yard work or assisting with simple work projects and minor home repair projects. YouthWorks has served the Blue Ridge community since 2006 but recently moved the site to Spindale in Rutherford County, NC in summer 2021.

Would you be willing to partner with us by praying? Prayer is so essential to the success of this trip. I would love it if you would partner with us by being in prayer for this mission trip experience! Specifically, in these areas:

Pray for the 17 of us who are going — that we would be open to learning from the community we're visiting and that we grow closer as a team and closer to Jesus.

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

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

Would you also consider partnering with us financially? The cost of this trip is \$800. Like a "real" missionary, we have challenged the youth to raise their own support to help fund this trip. Would you consider investing in them and in the lives of the people of Rutherford County, NC? Something to note, each youth have already given \$200 of their own money, have written support letters to family and friends and will be participating in other various fundraisers.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter! I ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us through prayer and/or with a financial gift. Whatever you decide to do, whether to pray or give generously, please let us know by filling out the attached response slip. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! Heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com

THANK YOU! — Heather Black

----- Cut & Return -----

## Response Slip

*Please fill this out and send to:*

*Trinity Lutheran Church PO Box 200 Attn: Fusion Ministry, Heather Black 200 E Main St. Cyrus, MN 56323*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

*I will Pray for the group before, during and after the Blue Ridge, NC mission trip.*

*Please add my cell number \_\_\_\_\_ to the prayer update so that I can specifically pray for this trip!*

*I have enclosed \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ or another amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to invest in the life of the youth!*

*Please make checks payable to Fusion Ministry*

*All gifts are non-refundable*



### Noisy Offering Sunday

#### May 8 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**

**TOTAL Collected—\$1,012.19**

***Thank You to Everyone  
who has contributed!***

### 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, May 1. 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**

## May Daily Bible Verses

1. John 15:7	11. Ezekiel 36:27	21. Psalm 103:3-5
2. Isaiah 26:3,4	12. Luke 1:79	22. II Peter 1:4
3. Psalm 107:15	13. Psalm 94:18,19	23. Luke 12:38
4. Romans 15:13	14. Isaiah 41:13	24. John 14:1
5. Jeremiah 29:11	15. Proverbs 16:1	25. Isaiah 43:1,2
6. Jeremiah 33:3	16. I Corinthians 2:9-10	26. II Thessalonians 3:3
7. Romans 1:16	17. Psalm 4:8	27. Psalm 103:1,2
8. Proverbs 16:32	18. Zephaniah 3:17	28. Exodus 15:13
9. John 14:7	19. I Peter 1:13	29. Acts 2:25,26
10. I Peter 1:6	20. Ephesians 3:20	30. Luke 1:78,79
		31. I Peter 2:6

### 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

April 10, 2022

<p><b>Members Present:</b> Pastor Vicki, Lynnae Lina, Eric Meichsner, Connie Tschetter, Mike Nordquist, Tony Reimers, Mark Torgerson, Vicky Dosdall, Todd Hodenfield, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, and Nancy Olson</p> <p><b>Members Absent:</b> None</p> <p><b>Guest(s):</b> None</p> <p><b>Call to Order:</b> Liz</p> <p><b>Opening Prayer &amp; Devotion:</b> Pastor Vicki</p> <p><b>REPORTS</b></p> <p><b>Pastor's Report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 Premarital Counseling &amp; Wedding</li><li>1 Baptism</li><li>1 Upcoming Funeral</li><li>First Communion on Mother's Day</li><li>Baccalaureate Coming Up</li><li>Visits</li></ul> <p>Free online workshop available</p> <p><b>Connie's Report:</b> Written Report Shared</p> <p><b>Fusion Youth Update:</b> None</p> <p><b>Call Committee Report:</b></p> <p>A letter sent to the "candidate of choice" due to a unanimous vote on the Call Committee. The Synod suggested sending the letter now instead of waiting. We are hopeful to hear from the candidate by the end of April, following Holy Week. The Synod recommends putting together a compensation package sooner rather than later to keep the process moving. Meeting with the council and/or the congregation isn't a requirement, but can be invited. It is common practice to have the candidate submit a video to share during the congregational meeting. The vote isn't to approve the candidate, rather the vote is to approve the call committee's recommendation.</p> <p><b>Ministry Reports:</b></p> <p><i>Congregation Life</i> - May Day baskets for shut-ins and moved bingo event to fall. (Jenny &amp; Tony)</p> <p><i>Outreach</i> - Served Lenten meal and will meet again next month. (Chris)</p> <p><i>Worship &amp; Music</i> - Discussed Holy Week (Mike)</p> <p><i>Memorial/Endowment</i> - No Report (Mark)</p> <p><i>Property &amp; Safety</i> - Cleaned out storage shed. Moving forward with bat removal. (Zach &amp; Eric)</p>	<p><i>Education</i> - Bible School is July 18-21, 2022 led by Luther Crest. Inviting other churches. (Vicky)</p> <p><i>Celebrate &amp; Share</i> - Food shelf donation was \$2641. (Todd)</p> <p><i>Women of Faith</i> - Meatball supper planning underway and cleaning kitchen took place. (Nancy)</p> <p><b>Secretary Report:</b> MMSP</p> <p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> MMSP</p> <p><b>OLD BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Worship Service:</b> Online engagement continues to be good.</p> <p><b>Covid Protocols &amp; Guidelines:</b> Questions about communion exist. Reminder servers to wash hands. Options are still available.</p> <p><b>Excess Funds:</b> Additional fund expenditures to be dispersed in June/July.</p> <p><b>Palm Sunday   Holy Week   Easter</b></p> <p><b>Palm Sunday</b> One service at 9:00 pm - Reaching out to families of students going to Lutheran college for breakfast.</p> <p><b>Maundy Thursday</b> Last Living Supper 7:00 pm service</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> John Kleinwolterink planning music. 7:00 pm service</p> <p><b>Easter Sunday</b> 7:00 am and 9:00 am services. Rolls served between services by youth going on Mission trip.</p> <p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Compensation Package for Full Time Pastor Candidate:</b> Lynnae, Eric, and Mark will be putting this initial compensation proposal together. They will meet and bring it to the council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Worksheet Provided by the Synod</li><li>-Base Salary</li><li>-Housing Allowance</li><li>-Non-wage benefits</li><li>-Leave</li></ul> <p><b>Flooring Update:</b> A <i>facility improvement committee</i> will be formed to develop a long-range plan to update the cosmetic features of the church, beginning in the Narthex. Nancy Olson volunteered to spearhead this.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> None</p> <p><b>Next Council Meeting:</b> Sunday, May 8, 2022</p> <p><b>Adjournment &amp; Lord's Prayer</b></p> <p><i>Respectfully Submitted,</i></p> <p><i>Jenny Maras - Council Secretary</i></p>
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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<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 Dossdall</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)