

LETTER OF FAITH

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF FAITH

Let's Celebrate in April

In a little less than 3 weeks, we will be celebrating Easter. On Sunday, April 17th, our Lenten journey will be over. Coming yet prior to Easter Sunday, we continue to have fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings with Supper and worship to follow. We will travel to the upper room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus and his disciples for The Living Last Supper and Holy Communion. We will hear Jesus say those powerful, effective words that are still effective when we hear them on Sunday mornings, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins". We will travel to the foot of the cross on Good Friday and once again we will hear Jesus utter a lonely cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" and we will hear his final words spoken with his last breath "It is finished!". With those words he pays the price for our Sin; sin which separates us from God.

Then on Easter morning, we will travel to the empty tomb to find that it's empty. We will celebrate that joyous Day of Resurrection with joy and exuberance. We often think, ok, Easter is over. But that is not so. Easter is actually 50 days. It covers Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It is to be celebrated as a single joyful feast called the "great Lord's Day" and each Sunday of the Easter season is to be treated as a Sunday of Easter.

In light of celebrating the Easter Season, many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity- "Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations of Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday after Easter.

For centuries in Eastern Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

The custom was rooted in the writings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead; "the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday." Many churches from different traditions responded enthusiastically. Holy Humor Sunday services have brought back large crowds to worship on a Sunday when church attendance typically is at its lowest just one week after we celebrate Jesus, rising from the dead.

Holy Humor Sunday celebrations on the Sunday after Easter have become tradition among churches of all denominations.

Let's think about it. How can we celebrate all 50 days of Easter with joy and

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Office Manager Connie Tschetter
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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—

laughter? After all, Jesus rising from the dead is indeed the best celebration of them all.

I end by sharing a prayer that Martin Luther prayed on Easter 1533: Almighty God, through the death of your Son you have destroyed sin and death. Through his resurrection you have restored innocence and eternal life. We who are delivered from the power of the devil may live in your kingdom. Give us grace that we may believe this with our whole heart. Enable us, always, to steadfastly praise and thank you in this faith, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

I wish you and yours the best as you continue to journey through Lent and may you have a Blessed Easter.

Pastor Vicki Toutges

Your Favorite Bible Verse

Deadline—April 15th—so they can be in the May Newsletter

Do you have a favorite Bible verse? One that you would like to share with the congregation. Pastor Vicki has decided to print these in the May Newsletter.

Please email her with the passages you hold most dear at: vtoutges001@luthersem.edu. You can also drop off your favorites when you are at Faith for worship or other events. Please share a verse or two that has been meaningful to you and if you feel comfortable, why the verse or verses are meaningful to you.

If you want your name printed with your verse, include your name. If you prefer your name to not be included, don't include your name or include your name but ask for it to be listed as anonymous.

Palm Sunday Breakfast—Sunday, April 10

The breakfast will be served by families of students attending Lutheran colleges —plan to attend the breakfast and support the students of Faith Lutheran.



Students who plan to attend a Lutheran College should contact Connie in the office to get the form that needs to be filled out. Many of the colleges match the church scholarship, but the intent needs to be sent to them quite early so we would like your application as soon as possible.

Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesday, April 6

Supper will be served from
5:00-6:15 by the Outreach

Ministry to support the
Missionaries in Tanzania

Worship Service at 6:30

***Congregational Transitions***

Funeral

March 12 Bruce Stark (Non-member)

Palm Sunday/ Holy Week/ Easter Worship Services

Sunday, April 10—Palm Sunday

9:00am Worship Service

**Pancake Breakfast served by Faith Lutheran Scholarship families –
come support them**



Thursday, April 14—Maundy Thursday—Living Last Supper

7:00pm Worship Service

Friday, April 15—Good Friday

7:00pm Worship Service



Sunday, April 17—Easter Sunday

7:00am and 9:00am Worship Services

Rolls and Coffee will be served between services.

Church Council Meeting April 10

(Sunday)

10:00 Following the Worship Service

Burgers, Beverages and Blessings

Beginning on Wednesday, April 20 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 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**

Thank You—“Souper” Bowl Sunday

Thank you for all of the donated cans of soup and canned goods on “Souper” Bowl Sunday. Thank you also for the monetary donations—we had \$473.00 donated that day which has been sent to the Stevens County Food Shelf.

Chanhassen Dinner Theatre

Show: Footloose

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Leave the church at 7:30am. One stop on the way for a bathroom break, then arrive by 11:00am. Lunch prior to the show, with the show beginning at 1:00pm. Show is over around 3:30, then head back to Morris with another stop on the way home, if needed. *NOTE: This could change with guideline changes: Mask use is required at all times. Proof of vaccination or a negative test is required to attend the performance.*

\$85.00 includes bus, lunch and show. 27 seats available.

Please pay when you sign up, making the check to Women of Faith.

Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade



April 3rd – Mission Trip Informational Meeting! 2-3pm @First Lutheran Church

April 3rd – Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

April 10th – Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

April 17th – **HAPPY EASTER!** No Sr. High Fusion!

April 24th - Sr. High Fusion 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church

Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade. Wednesdays at 6-7:30pm!



April 3rd – Mission Trip Informational Meeting! 2-3pm @First Lutheran Church

April 6th – No ELEMENT – Please attend your church's Mid-week Lenten Service

April 13th – Holy Week – No Element

April 20th - Element @First Lutheran Church 6-7:30pm

April 27th – Element @First Lutheran Church 6-7:30pm

May 4th – Last Element! Details to come!!

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

www.fusion-ministry.com

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



The Fusion leadership has made the tough decision to switch dates and location of the mission trip after little interest in the June/Kentucky date.

"Mission trips are awesome! They challenge us to look beyond ourselves and see that the world is bigger than what we thought. It shows us that God is at work all around the country and the world. If you want your youth to experience a trip that will be fun, exciting, eye opening and challenging - this is something you should invest in! I have led youth on 10 different mission trips (across the country and also across the seas) throughout my years in ministry and I have seen youth's attitude and lives change after a week spent helping others and learning more about themselves!"

-Heather Black

Please check out the fusion website for much more information and to sign up!

www.fusion-ministry.com/mission-trip

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

All are Welcome.

April 25

“The Restaurant”
by Pamela Kelley



Book Selections for May and June:

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!

Thank You Note received from Stevens Community Medical Center to “Prayer Shawl Women”

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in Thanksgiving to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11

Thank You for the prayer shawls.

SCMC Chemotherapy Department

The patients really like the colorful ones.

Radio Broadcast—Daily Devotions Sponsorship

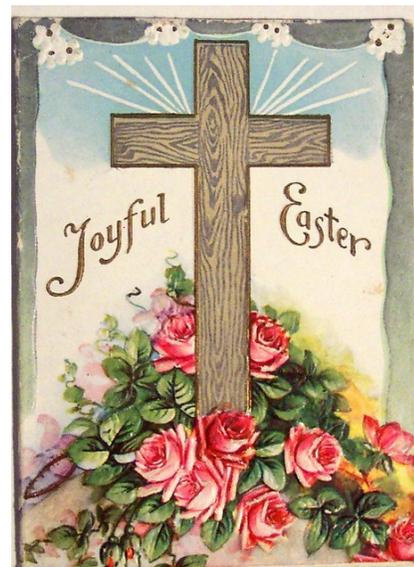
The daily devotion radio broadcasts (Monday—Friday) on KMRS and KKOK are \$90.00 per week—if you would like to help with this ministry please call the church office and let us know. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank You!



Do Days have quilts ready to donate and would like to donate to Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief is donating quilts to Ukraine and other areas in desperate need.

If you are going to St. Paul—we are fortunate to have a drop off location in Minnesota—please call the church to let us know you can deliver these quilts. **THANK YOU**



Noisy Offering Sunday

April 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**

TOTAL Collected—\$861.27

*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, April 3. Order and purchase your lunch, and enjoy the company of others. For questions, please call Pedersen Funeral Home 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

April Daily Bible Verses

1. Matthew 3:16-17	11. Psalm 31:14	21. John 3:16
2. 2 Corinthians 4:17	12. Genesis 28:15	22. Philippians 3:13-14
3. Psalm 116:17	13. Hebrews 6:19	23. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
4. 1 John 1:7	14. Philippians 4:5	24. Hebrews 12:2
5. Isaiah 64:8	15. John 8:36	25. Romans 8:38-39
6. Hebrews 13:8	16. Proverbs 19:21	26. Psalm 118:24
7. Jeremiah 17:7	17. Lamentations 3:22-26	27. Joshua 24:15
8. Psalm 40:3	18. James 1:4	28. Philippians 4:8-9
9. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18	19. Psalm 29:4	29. Deuteronomy 31:6
10. Hebrews 4:16	20. Ephesians 2:8-10	30. Psalm 28:8

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

March 13, 2022

Members Present: Connie Tschetter, Mike Nordquist, Tony Reimers, Mark Torgerson, Vicky Dossdall, Todd Hodenfield, Liz Spohr, Zach Arnold, Chris Hopkins, Jenny Maras, and Nancy Olson

Members Absent: Pastor Vicki, Lynnae Lina, Eric Meichsner

Guest: Pastor Stephen Cook from the Synod, Heather Black from Fusion

Call to Order: Liz

Opening Prayer & Devotion: Liz

REPORTS

Pastor's Report: Written Report Shared

Connie's Report: Written Report Shared - A lot of time has been spent updating finances and mailings.

Fusion Youth Update: Update on shared youth program

Call Committee Report:

Jenny reported on the 2nd round face-to-face interviews that have happened and are scheduled. Pastor Stephen revisited the "call" language. When the call committee decides on a candidate, they become a "candidate of choice."

1. Candidates of choice may request to meet with council or the executive committee.
2. If the candidate agreed to move forward, it is important to negotiate compensation, benefits, sabbatical information, and leave.
3. Present candidate to the congregation. $\frac{2}{3}$ vote with recorded yays and nahs. It is advised the Synod is told that date ahead of time.

The candidate of choice has 30 days from receiving the letter of call to accept or decline.

Ministry Reports:

Congregation Life - No Report (Tony)

Outreach - Meeting sometime in March, Serving a Lenten Meal in April (Chris)

Worship & Music - Discussed Holy Week, Still Researching New Sound Equipment (Mike)

Memorial/Endowment - No Report (Mark)

Property & Safety - Working on Calling a Meeting (Zach)

Education - Ash Wednesday supper and exploring Luther Crest Bible School (Vicky)

Celebrate & Share - Meeting next week. (Todd)

Women of Faith - Meeting being scheduled (Nancy)

Secretary Report: MMSP

Treasurer's Report: MMSP

OLD BUSINESS

Worship Service: Good engagement online.

Goal Setting: TBA

Covid Protocols & Guidelines:

Updates will be posted on the door and online. Continuing members to stay home if they are sick will continue to the norm. In regard to serving out of the kitchen, especially with Lenten meals coming up, suggested protocols will be posted in the kitchen. People have been really excited about the Lenten meals. Gloves will still be encouraged. In regard to communion, it was suggested to spread out servers and potentially add more.

Excess Funds:

With excess funds available, the council discussed three arenas of use. We could be more generous in our financial giving. We could spend some of the excess on improvements to the building. Mike is looking into improvements to the 30 year-old sound system, while Vicky is exploring flooring upgrades in the narthex. We could also leave the healthy excess funds as a way to be attractive to a future full-time pastor. This will be an on-going conversation with a formal re-visit in June.

NEW BUSINESS

Palm Sunday One service at 9:00 pm - Breakfast for reaching out to families of students going to Lutheran college.

Maundy Thursday Last Living Supper 7:00 pm service

Good Friday John Kleinwolterink is planning music. 7:00 pm service

Easter Sunday 7:00 am and 9:00 am services. Connie reached out to a few groups who would *potentially* be fundraising for the Easter breakfast in between services. If not, the service group could do coffee in between.

Other:

-Radio broadcast money - \$350 monthly for the "Daily Devotion." Continue putting request in the bulletin, but should add to announcements in church.

-Should we look at making the meeting room more of a conference room style with the addition of virtual meeting equipment? Zach will explore with the Property & Safety committee.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, April 10, 2022

Adjournment & Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Maras - Council Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

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PERMIT #130

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Office Manager	Connie Tschetter	faithful@hometownsolutions.net
Youth Director of Fusion Ministry	Heather Black	
Pianist	Rita Lambert	
Director of Music	John Kleinwolterink	
Custodians	Ryan & Cassie Snyder	
Website	Anne Mitteness	

Congregational Church Council

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

Church Office (320) 589-2970 e-mail: faithful@hometownsolutions.net

Website www.faithlutheranmorris.org (Worship Services can be viewed on the website)