



The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church
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January, 2022

Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Just a few weeks ago we had our annual voter assembly meeting, which I was unable to attend due to a stomach bug that kept me home that Sunday. I think it was the first Sunday I have missed due to illness in 20 years of ministry. It was a strange feeling to not be leading the Divine Service, but I am thankful that my Elders were able to step up to the plate and offer a simple service in my place.

If I had been able to attend the Voter's Assembly meeting, I would have talked about the past year and something of my vision for the future. When I say my vision what I actually mean is what God through the power of the Holy Spirit has done this year and will continue to do in and through me and all of you.

First and foremost, I want to thank God for the freedom that we have to worship God and receive His gifts in the Divine Service every week. Early on in 2020 it was decided to put air purification/filters in the church and to set up stations for hand sanitizers. These and other safety measures ensured that we had the safest possible environment to gather together. We have not had any breakouts of Covid or any other virus this year and we thank God for His protection. We have not lived in fear, but have steadily placed our trust in God and taken measured steps in our reaction to this virus.

We will continue to preach the Word of God in its truth and purity and administer the sacraments rightly in our congregation. I have always believed that nothing is more important than these two things for the life and vitality of a church. I promise to be faithful to the Word of God and the Confessions of our church and will continue to teach and preach accordingly.

We have been blessed this year with many new members. I have led 3 Catechism classes for adults and started a class for youth this year. It is exciting to think that in a year and a half we will have several youth be Confirmed in our church. It is also exciting that we have another adult Catechism class planned that will start in January. Along with the Catechism classes our Sunday morning class is now studying the Augsburg Confession, which is like our Magna Carta or Constitution.

We have also been able to add a communion rail and kneelers to our sanctuary. This has really set off the altar and also it gives us an opportunity to reflect on what is going on in the sacraments. Kneeling is not something that is often done in our society. It is a different body position and it fosters a sense of reverence for the Body and Blood of Christ that we receive in the Lord's Supper.

Moving forward I want us as a congregation to plan for opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and community at large. We are a very friendly and faithful congregation, but there is always room to improve. We will examine how we welcome our guests and try to ensure that we make them feel welcomed and help them with any questions they may have.

We are also going to look for opportunities to reach out. Before Covid we had started an initiative called "Need a friend – be a friend". The goal was for us to provide an avenue for service and for requesting service. We have not been able to do much over the last year or so, but we hope to move forward with this idea. Ultimately this year's focus can be summed up in this "Love God and Love your neighbor", these are the greatest commandments from God and we seek to accomplish His will for us and through us in joy and thanksgiving for His great gift of mercy and forgiveness that He purchased for us on the Cross. That is our vision, that is our hope and that is our joy. May God's grace be with you always to the very end of the age. Amen.



Pastor Poock

Christmas and Advent Decoration Removal will be Saturday, **January 8th at 9:00 am.**

Thank you for your help in decorating the church this past year. Now it is time for decoration removal, so we will be needing some Volunteers' time and help to prepare the church for 2022. In the past, we've had a great turnout which makes the task much easier. We can usually accomplish the work in less than 2 hours. Please mark your calendars and come join us. If you have any questions, contact Dennis Steinke at 815-289-0057.

WOMEN OF FAITH

Despite COVID, Women of Faith had a very prolific year in regard to quilt production with 325 on display in addition to some donated table runners and wall hangings, AND best of all several new members expressed an interest in joining our group and we are looking forward to welcoming them in 2022. The free will offering brought in over \$1100 to our treasuries which will be a big help in purchasing supplies and toys with the present inflated pricing in stores. So **THANK YOU!**

We set aside 22 quilts for our homebound, delivered 72 lap robes, a toy and a Bible sticker book for each child to Redlands Christian Migrant Center Head Start program and then approximately 122 to Meals on Wheels which, this year, they will hold until Valentine's Day. Please consider this outreach ministry on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 9-11:30 am.

Marjorie Weiss



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 2021

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

PRESENT: President Glen Collier; VP Jim Jones; incoming Treasurer Barbara Wikel; Head Elder Mert Janovec; Head Trustee David Benson; Communication Chairman Kelly Freeman; and Pastor Pooch. Barbara Gorman, DeWitt Gorman, and Nathan Kneser attended as guests. Absent: Treasurer Judy Faries; Financial Secretary Marilyn Howard; Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs;

Opening Devotion: Pastor read a lesson from Minute Messages based on Isaiah 40:3, "*A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord.*" Pastor discussed that the importance of Advent coming before Christmas is tied to the Law coming before the Gospel. We begin the Divine Service with confession and repentance which is also an expression of praise to God for our redemption; we understand our position before God and what He has done for us.

REPORTS

SECRETARY: Minutes for 11-15-21 previously approved via email. Jean Roehrs has submitted her resignation due to her health. Kelly Freeman agreed to record the Council meeting minutes in Jean's absence. For the Voters Assembly meeting, Barbara Wikel recorded and distributed the minutes to the Council by email. Mert Janovec provided minor comments on the minutes to Barbara. Kelly Freeman recorded the Voter registration and attendance for the meeting.

TREASURER: Reports previously distributed by email. No questions from the Council members. Barbara Wikel reported that she is working with Judy Faries and the bookkeeper to complete the transition of the regular duties for weekly and monthly payment processing. This week they will begin the process for the quarter and year-end closing. The bookkeeper has asked a question about the staff Christmas gifts. The Council has previously approved processing these as income to the individuals with appropriate amounts for the taxes paid by the church.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: No report.

PASTOR: Pastor has recovered from his brief illness. Additional copies of *A Simple Explanation of Christmas* have been ordered. Members have been encouraged to share the booklet with others. Youth Catechism has 6 students attending. Another Adult Catechism Class will begin on January 5, meeting on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. Thirteen people have already signed up. The current session of GriefShare concludes on January 3 and there will be a hiatus before beginning a new session. Two people have volunteered to teach Sunday School for children beginning in January. District is planning to resume in-person conferences in the spring. Pastor's reserve duty window does not resume until April. The hymn study for Advent has been well received and therefore also will be the theme for Lent services.

VICE PRESIDENT: No report.

PRESIDENT: Glen Collier asked the guests in attendance if they had any particular inputs. DeWitt Gorman said he is investigating the possibility of a fishing event for a fellowship activity.

BOARD REPORTS

COMMUNICATION: The Council Planning Calendar was reviewed for December – March. The Chancel Choir will perform on December 19 and Christmas Eve. The Bell Choir also will perform on Christmas Eve and will be deciding this week whether to also perform on Christmas Day. The Bell Choir is likely to continue after Christmas and perform periodically. Stephen Reay is not available from January – April, so the Chancel Choir will need an additional director if they wish to continue. After discussion, it was decided to continue the Friday evening movie in January with additional announcements to encourage attendance. Christmas decorations will be removed on January 8. February 6 was approved for the annual Volunteer Recognition Event. The current Time and Talent form was distributed, and Council members asked to provide input on changes via email.

ELDERS: Mert Janovec reported that since Ray Gilbert has joined the Elders, they will be updating assignment lists. Pastor Rabe has received a call to be the missionary recruiter. A new mission worker based in Uruguay, _____, has been selected for the Q1 collection. Pastor and the Elders are considering whether to offer 1 or 2 services on Wednesdays during Lent.

LWML: No report.

TRUSTEES: Dave Benson reported that AC maintenance was recently completed on the 6 units that cool other areas of the building besides the sanctuary. These units also are aging, and we should anticipate they will need significant repairs or replacement in the next year or so. The overflow parking area has been paved. Dave recommended installing wheel stops (\$60 each) due to the drop-off around the edges. Jim Jones made a motion to purchase them, seconded by Barbara Wikel and approved unanimously. Dave is also investigating lighting options for that parking area. For the lighting around and within the building, Dave is reviewing the operation and settings on the main control board. The kneelers are being installed this week. Dave obtained several bids to replace the sanctuary carpeting and proposed accepting a bid for \$1689. Jim Jones moved to authorize this expense, seconded by Mert Janovec and unanimously approved. After the new carpet is installed, it was requested that the process for lighting the altar candles be revised to avoid wax dripping on the new carpet.

NEW BUSINESS—

Additional communication was requested regarding the service on December 12 being led by the Elders.

Pastor will communicate at upcoming services the last-minute illness circumstances that led to it.

A preliminary discussion was held about potential options for additional support for Pastor's duties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS_- none

The next Council meeting will be **January 11, 2022** at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. with a prayer led by Pastor.

Submitted by Kelly Freeman on behalf of Jean E Roehrs, Recording Secretary

A great New Year's resolution would be to remember each week to bring an item to help fill the food barrel for those less fortunate. We are so grateful to each of you that help keep that barrel full and to **Larry Colton** who delivers our paper and food items to the United Methodist Church .



To all our members and friends currently receiving or would like to receive the Pastor's Weekly Message as a mailing. PLEASE call the church office at 941-776-1395 and request that we begin mailing the message to you, or you may complete the form below and put it in the collection box.

[Weekly Mailed Messgeee Request form:](#)

Please mail Pastor's Weekly Message to me/us,

(name) _____

at this address _____

We would like to receive the following: please check your choices

_____ Pastor's Weekly Message

_____ Monthly Newsletter

_____ Portals of Prayer (every 3 months)

Also indicate an alternative address and date if you are an Associate Member and want the Weekly Mailed Message sent to you up north.



We are in need of some volunteers to share 30 minutes prior to the 10:30 Divine Service to greet Members, friends and new visitors to our house of worship. You would be asked to do this once every other month. Please contact Margaret or the Office if you can volunteer.

MOVIE NIGHT - January 14

Our movie this month will be the "Apostle Peter and the Last Supper". The movie is set in Rome A.D. 67, where two jailers at the ancient Mamertine Prison take custody of a famous criminal. He is Simon Peter of Galilee--apostle, disciple and personal friend of Jesus, also called the Christ. Condemned to death, the elderly Peter recounts his life as a simple fisherman who became one of the boldest figures in all of Christianity. As Peter prepares to depart this earthly life, he will make an unforgettable impression on his jailers through the saving power of the Gospel. Please sign up if you plan to attend. Pizza and salad will be available at 5:30 pm.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...



Pastor's Bible Classes

**Our Sunday Bible Class meets at 9:15 am and
Pastor's Wednesday Bible Study meets afternoons at 3:30 pm,
in the Great Hall .**

**The Augsburg Confession is being discussed in depth on
Sundays.**

Come join in the discussions.

The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at
Concordia Seminary.

The **Book of Ephesians** is being studied at Pastor's **Wednesday
Bible Study Classes.**



DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:00 PM

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 WILL BE ONE DIVINE SERVICE
AT 9:15 AM WITH A LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW.**

Fellowship:

Fellowship served three advent meals of sandwiches, salads, chips, desserts and beverages for an average of 30 to 35 people. All who attended seemed to enjoy the light meal and fellowship. Sincere 'Thank You's' to:

Pat Barlow, Kiah Pooch, Marti Katterhenry, Judy Faries,
Monica Carezza, Margaret Greenslade, Gwyn Pooch,
Alex Boettcher, Patti Littlejohn, Kelly Freeman, Margie Weiss,
Toni McCarty and Carol Dressel

for your help in set up, clean up and baking. We couldn't have done it without your help!

Margaret and Monica continue to call volunteers to bring in coffee bites each Sunday and we all really enjoy that time of fellowship and getting to meet new individuals. The following brought in coffee bites in December:

Monica Carezza, Margaret Greenslade,
Marti Katterhenry, Sawaeng Lindberg,
Diana Manning and Karen Pollari.



Because January is a five Sunday month, we will only have a 9:15 Divine Service with a light luncheon following on January 30th. There is a sign up sheet on the blue table in the Narthex. We are planning on fried chicken, mac & cheese, vegetable and/or salad, pie and beverages. Please indicate on the sign up sheet if you can help with set up, clean up or providing a pie for dessert. **BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR SO YOU DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL TIME OF FELLOWSHIP**



**With all Good Wishes, Hope your Merry Christmas
Will be a bright promise of a Happy New Year.**

This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Sundays, 8:00 am / Sunday 10:30 am

January 2 Janie Zanella / Kiah Pock
 January 9 Meta Green / Chris Stisser
 January 16 Martha Riedl / Monica
 Carenza
 January 23 Janie Zanella / Nancy Niemi

Wednesdays, 5pm

January 5 Eloise Schwarz
 January 12 Alice Bowen
 January 19 Eloise Schwarz
 January 26 Susan Barber

Elders

Sundays, 8:00 am

January 2 Dennis Steinke
 January 9 Tom Weiss
 January 16 Roy Heflin
 January 23 Tom Weiss
 January 30 **NO Service**

Sundays, 10:30 am

Dennis Steinke
 Tom Barlow
 Roy Heflin
 Tom Barlow
 Ray Gilbert

Assistant

Chris Lindau
 Caleb Pock
 Chris Lindau
 Caleb Pock
 Caleb Pock

Wednesdays, 5 pm

Assistant

January 5	Mike Freeman	David Barber
January 12	Dennis Steinke	Joe Rawlinson
January 19	Mike Freeman	Curt McCarty
January 26	Mike Freeman	Jeff Sattanno

Offering Counters

January 2
 January 9
 January 16
 January 23
 January 30

Thank you to all offering counters, who are assisting in this important function of our Church.



- 1 Dawn Sumner Helen Wallace
- 3 Jonathan Koehler, Margie Weiss
- 5 Roy Heflin
- 6 Cheryl Lingis
- 7 Jack Dressel
- 8 Richard Stevenson
- 10 Donna Koenig, Silas Pooch
- 11 Raymond Lesoine
- 15 James Koehler
- 17 William Vlasak
- 19 Renee Cole
- 20 John Bessey, Aaron Boettcher
- 22 Veronica Carezza, Fran Smith
- 24 Elena McAnally
- 25 Gene Hemingway
- 26 Norm Bothun
- 27 Dave Underwood
- 28 Gerald Gabrielson
- 29 Milford Hughes
- 30 Sue Koehler



Birthdays



- 1 Oisin & Charity Crean, Paul & Mary Meyer (68 yrs.)
- 15 Jeff & Robin Snell (42 yrs.)
- 18 Paul & Kristine Bearse (25 yrs.)
- 24 David & Susan Barber (52 yrs.)
- 25 James & Shelia Smith (48 yrs.)



Faith Women in Mission

Faith Women in Mission (LWML) will meet Thursday, January 13th at 9:30 am. with refreshments . We will begin our meeting with Bible Study and prayers followed by a brief business meeting. We will finalize our visit to Solve Homes in February.

Please continue to bring in your Mite boxes and place them on the LWML table.

We always accept donations for our hygiene kits. Just place your items in the plastic bin to the left of the LWML table.

The Board of Elders will meet at 9:15 am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 6 pm.



The third session of GriefShare will have their final video and discussion on January 3rd. We have averaged 12 Attendees this session and feel blessed to have helped them through this difficult time.

The next session will not take place until April or May.

Paula Jefferson, Marti Katterhenry, Margaret Greenslade and Pastor have been facilitating these three sessions and would like to invite others to find the joy in sharing their time and talents with these grieving Christians.

Facilitators help those who are grieving learn how to better understand and cope with the death of a loved one. They are people who have suffered a loss of their own and want to reach out to others to assist them through their journey from Mourning to Joy.



PLEASE, if this is something you would like to volunteer to help with for a few hours one day a week for 13 weeks, call the church office at 941-776-1395.



Faith is truly blessed with Church Members who share their talents each and every day. Our beautiful altar was decorated by Elder, Dennis Steinke and his volunteers, Janie Zanella and the Altar Guild Ladies and Trustee, Dave Benson and his handy work creating the railings and kneelers. We send out a huge **Thank You** to all of you.

MILITARY Gift Card Program

I am pleased to announce that our **MILITARY** Gift Card Program was once again a great success. Our Congregation donated over \$1700.00 to our **MILITARY** serving all across the country and world.

I want to thank you for your generous support and wish you all a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year as we look forward to a healthy New Year.
God is Good and He will see us through,
Lois Lannon

Dear Faith Members,

We want to sincerely thank you for the monetary Christmas gift we received. Your generosity and kindness is so appreciated. Best wishes in this New Year, 2022, for good health, true happiness and always love.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Pooch, Wilma Smith and Margaret Greenslade.
Rick & Teena Ross, Dave Benson and Organist, Bill Vlasak.

