



The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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February, 2022

Recently, I have had several conversations around the topic of what is the Church. Article 7 of the Augsburg Confession states that “The church is the gathering of all believers, in which the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are properly administered.” When talking about the gathering of the first believers in the book of Acts Luke states “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42. This description is talking about reading scripture, the Lord’s Supper, and the prayers as a set thing is understood to be the beginnings of our liturgy.

The liturgy has its beginnings in the use of the Psalms as prayers during the festivals at the Temple. If you look at the beginnings of some of the Psalms you will see they are labeled as songs of ascent, as the priest mounted the Temple steps. There are other Psalms that were for other parts of the sacrifices. Then when the system of synagogues was established, because the Hebrews had been scattered across the world, the Rabbis would read set portions of Scripture to instruct the people. There was a reading from the Torah (the first 5 books of our Old Testament), from the Psalms or other wisdom literature and from the prophets. When Jesus read from the book of Isaiah and then told the people this had been written about Him, he did not randomly choose that portion of Scripture, but it was the assigned reading for that Sabbath.

So what does all of this mean for us. The church is a gathering of all believers, so does that mean church can happen anywhere? In some sense that is true, but there are requirements for it to be considered church. Matt 18:20 states “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” So, is this church? No, it is not. In the context it is talking about prayer and the necessity of being in absolute agreement, but it is not church. Just because Christians gather together and pray it does not necessarily mean there is a church. The other side of it is the breaking of the bread and the teaching of the Apostles. In other words, to be Church means two things, the people of God are gathered together and a rightly called Pastor is there to preach the Gospel in its truth and purity and to administer the sacraments rightly. We work together to form the Church, you as the gathering of believers, and me as your properly called Pastor.

The Pastor is the servant of His Flock, but he needs a flock, or he is not a Pastor. The Flock needs a shepherd otherwise there is a tendency to forsake the teaching of the Apostles. We work together to create the Church.

Now in times of emergency the elders who are called by the Pastor to serve as his under-shepherds are to be faithful men of God who assist the Pastor, as they have done this month when I was sick. The first time I got sick on Saturday and there was no time to find another Pastor to administer the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, so they read the lessons, prayers and a sermon that I had given them, but since they are not the properly called Pastor, they could not bless the elements of bread and wine, so you could not receive the Lord’s Supper on that day. There was still an order to our activities, you still followed the liturgy and still heard the teaching of the apostles, but the breaking of the bread requires a Pastor.

CONTINUED

The second time I was sick, it happened earlier in the week, so the elders were able to get another Pastor to serve that week. Both times the elders fulfilled their calling in assisting me as the Pastor. Both times things were done in good order as best as we could with the time constraints. I thank my elders for being faithful and assisting me. I thank Pastor Hinman for being willing to step into my office on occasion when I am unable to be with you. And I thank you for faithfully coming to the Divine Service so that we can be the Church of God here on earth. May God bless you today and always. Amen.

Pastor Poock

Sunday School for children will begin on Sunday, February 6th. Pat Barlow has volunteered to get things started. Anyone else willing to help, please call the Church Office.



There will NOT be a movie night in February.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Volunteer Recognition Week

At services on Sunday, February 6 and Wednesday, February 9, we will recognize the many volunteers who faithfully serve and keep the ministries and activities of our church operating smoothly. Without their dedicated service, we could not accomplish all that takes place at our church. Forms with a list of Service Opportunities will be available for new volunteers to prayerfully consider where God is calling them to serve in our ministries.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
January 11, 2022

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

PRESENT: President Glen Collier; VP Jim Jones: Financial Secretary Marilyn Howard; Head Elder Mert Janovec, Communication Chairman Kelly Freeman, Head Trustee David Benson.

Absent: Pastor Pock (Silas home on leave), Treasurer Barbara Wikel (vacation)

Guests: DeWitt Gorman, Laura Matson, Martha Riedl

Opening Devotions: Mert read devotional

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SECRETARY: Vacant Position, President stated with Council approval 12-14-21 Minutes approved as printed.

TREASURER: Absent, 2021 Year End Close Out Financials will be sent out later in the month.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: [December report distributed, Total Offerings \\$37,668.81.](#)

VP: Has been pursuing names of Retired Pastors in the area.

PRESIDENT: no report.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

PASTOR: Absent, Silas is home on military leave.

BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORTS:

COMMUNICATION:

Church Calendars have been updated for January through April 2022.
Ordered new 2022 Banners: "Hope Found Here" and Easter Banner.
Friday email stats show 219 emails sent, 132 emails opened and read.
Website updates of Elders pictures and bios.
Movie night sign ups 23 people.
Volunteer Recognition is set for 1st week of February.
Time and Talent Survey name changed to "Service Opportunity Survey".

ELDERS:

Adult Catechism class had 23 sign ups for the first class, with 3-4 attending.
Quarterly projects were reported out.
Children Bible Study class is being organized.
Next GriefShare program will be April 25th through July 25th.

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TRUSTEES:

New counter for under television will be installed this month.
New red carpet for sanctuary will be installed next week.
Parking lot lighting is being upgraded to LED's.
New military branch, US Space Force flagpole is being added.
US flagpole is being upgraded to allow flag to fly at half-mast.

LWML: Marilyn Howard reported out.

Hygiene Kits and Solve Homes projects continue on schedule.
Crop Walk is scheduled for last Sunday in February (27th).
Mary and Larry Colton are now in charge of "Food Barrel".

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. No unfinished business to discuss.

The next Council meeting will be **February 8th** at 6:00 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Lord's Prayer.



GRIEFSHARE NEEDS ADDITIONAL FACILITATORS!!!

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

The next session is scheduled to begin on April 25th and continue through July 25th.

If you are interested in becoming a Facilitator, please call the church office (941-776-1395), so we can work with you in joining our team.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...

Pastor Poock's Bible Classes



Our **Sunday Bible Class** meets at **9:15 am** in the Great Hall led by Pastor Poock. The scripture readings are discussed in depth and you can ask questions too! The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Bible Study (Please note: there is no Bible Study, January 30th)

He also meets on **Wednesdays at 3:30** prior to the 5:00 Divine Worship. They are currently studying the book of **Ephesians**.

Adult Catechism Classes take place on **Wednesdays** following the 5:00 Divine Service at 6:15 pm. through the end of February.

NEED A FRIEND/ BE A FRIEND!

I was in prison and you came to me (Matt. 25:36b). And when did we see you sick or in prison. (Matt. 25:39) Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me. (Matt. 25:40)

Have the events of the past few months made you feel like you are in a prison? Have you felt lonely, just wanting to hear a friendly voice and know someone cares? If you would like to receive a friendly phone call a few times a week, just to say 'hi', 'I care about you'. 'How are you doing?' then give your name and phone number to Kelly at 317-654-0689 and you will be teamed up with a new friend.

Would you like to be a friend, bringing a little love and sunshine into someone's day?

Perhaps a little 'son-shine'? Call Jean at 941-417-7693. **You are blessed to be a blessing to others.**





LWML IS ASKING FAITH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO HELP SUPPORT SOLVE HOMES.

LWML ladies are collecting new baby items for Solve Homes, a faith-based nonprofit organization here in Manatee County that provides cost free maternity housing and support for at risk women during and after their pregnancy. They are asking for new baby items to be brought in and placed on the LWML table through February 10th, when LWML ladies will take them to one of their homes in Palmetto and then tour the facility as their February 10th meeting day. Any Faith ladies wishing to share in this event are asked to RSVP to Marilyn Howard at 941-773-0309 prior to February 10th. They are also accepting cash donations that help provide cleaning and laundry supplies. Please help LWML support some needs of mothers and babies who are seeking help.



Items needed are: diapers, wipes, bottles, bibs, baby shampoo/bodywash, clothing, booties, infant blankets, onesies, baby oil, baby powder, cotton swabs, formulas, pacifiers, and any other items you think baby needs. We will also accept laundry detergent, dishwashing liquids and other cleaning needs for the care of Solve Homes.

Ladies taking part in this tour event are invited to join LWML ladies for lunch at the Sage Biscuit following the tour. (They need a count of participants).

The March LWML meeting will be dedicated to putting together hygiene kits for the homeless students here in Manatee County. They will be assembling these kits on Thursday, March 10th. Most needed items are:

Deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes holders. Any other items will be greatly appreciated.

Items can be dropped off at church and placed in the plastic bin to the left of the LWML table. Thanking you in advance for your generous support.

This Month's Privileged Servants

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" (Psalm 100:2)



Altar Guild

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

- Feb. 6 Martha Riedl / Pat Barlow
- Feb. 13 Gwyn Pooch / Chris Stisser
- Feb. 20 Meta Green / Monica Carezza
- Feb. 27 Meta Green / Nancy Niemi

Wednesdays, 5pm

- Feb. 2 Alice Bowen
- Feb. 9 Eloise Schwarz
- Feb. 16 Alice Schwarz
- Feb. 23 Eloise Schwarz

Elders

Sundays, 8:00 am

- February 6 Tom Weiss
- February 13 Roy Heflin
- February 20 Dennis Steinke
- February 27 Tom Weiss

Sundays, 10:30 am

- Tom Barlow
- Roy Heflin
- Dennis Steinke
- Tom Barlow

Assistant

- Caleb Pooch
- Chris Lindau
- Caleb Pooch
- Chris Lindau

Wednesdays, 5 pm

- February 2 **NO service**
- February 9 Mert Janovec
- February 16 Mike Freeman
- February 23 Ray Gilbert

Assistant

- Jeff Sattanno
- David Barber
- Joe Rawlinson

Offering Counters

- February 6
- February 13
- February 20
- February 27

HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

ALTAR GUILD

Fresh Flowers always add a nice touch to our altar, so if you have an anniversary, birthday, or special event to celebrate or if you would like to donate in memory of a loved one, the flower calendar on the bulletin board in the Narthex, makes it easy to sign up. There are written directions that will help and answer your concerns.



WOMEN OF FAITH



Women of Faith ladies are working to complete baby quilts to donate to LWML's SOLVE Homes February project. We continue to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9-11:30 am in the Great Hall. Question/concerns, please call Marjorie Weiss, 941-757-7307.

FOOD BARREL DONATIONS



We have an opportunity to help others that are less fortunate through our Food Barrel donations. Items of priority this month are: **toilet tissue, canned fruit, bottles of fruit juice and toiletries.**

Thank you for helping this most worthy cause, and Larry Colton for taking the items to the Methodist Church in Parrish.

THANK YOU FROM THE ELDERS

The Board of Elders would like to thank everyone who offered their valuable time and talents to decorate and remove the church decorations this past Advent and Christmas season. Many hands made the job go easily and quickly. We hope to see you again this next year.

Elder, Dennis Steinke



Happy Birthday

- 1 Sawaeng Lindberg
- 2 Sarah Stiene,
- 4 Terry Rupprecht, Judy Sattanno
- 5 Terry Uhl
- 6 Paul Meyer
- 8 Ralph Grotelueschen
- 9 Jeannette Hinman
- 12 Kaleb Guy
- 16 Linda Kochan
- 18 Jim Jones
- 20 Joan Toye
- 23 Kathy Drummond
- 25 Pat Barlow
- 27 Cheryl Cusick, Dennis Steinke
- 28 Lisa Boettcher
- 29 Lois Lannon



happy anniversary

- 5 Greg & Arlene Gasper (50 years) Jerome & Terry Uhl (23 years)
- 18 Ray & Vicky Gilbert (16 years)
- 23 Don & Shirley Hagge (2 year)
- 28 William & Vicki Costello (38 years)





Prayer Requests

The psalmist writes *The Lord has heard my pleas; the Lord accepts my prayer (Psalm 6:9 ESV). The Lord hears our pleas and will accept our prayers, also. Please make your prayer needs known to the church office or to the prayer chairman and your requests/needs will be shared with the Prayer Partners who have joined the Faith Prayer Ministry. To be a member of this vital ministry send an email to jeanroehrs@msn.com and prayer request will be sent to you via email. Thank you.*

PRAYER PARTNERS:

Concerned that you don't know how to pray or your prayers aren't effective? Max Lacado wrote that it isn't the strength of the person praying but the strength of the one being prayed to. With God, all things are possible. If you would like to receive prayer requests via email for members and their loved ones in need, email your address to Jean at jeanroehrs@msn.com and as she receives prayer requests, they will be sent out., If you have a prayer need but no email, please call Kelly Freeman at 317-654-0689.

Manatee County CROP Walk

Once again due to COVID, most of the Hunger Walk will be virtual. However, in an effort to continue the fight against disease, disaster, displacement and other concerns that leave people hungry, including supporting Our Daily Bread in Bradenton, whose mission is to provide for the nutritional needs of the poor and the needy of our community. You can help Faith to raise funds to help neighbors get the meals they need. Please check out the display on the blue table in the Narthex where you can place your cash or check (made out to Faith Lutheran Church with 'CROP Walk' on the memo line) and place it in the box provided. You can also go online to 'Manatee CROP Walk' and make a donation.



FELLOWSHIP NEWS:

Sunday morning Coffee Bites continues to have some delicious goodies following the 10:30 am Divine Service. There is also a lot of fellowship happening and what a joy it is to see folks hanging around enjoying this time of fellowship.

We want to thank the following for providing treats for January:
Pat Barlow, Margaret Greenslade, Pattie Littlejohn, Carol Priest,
Martha Riedl and Janie Zanella



If you are interested in volunteering to help with Coffee Bites (3 dozen cookies or 2 dozen pastries), please let Monica or Margaret know or call the Church Office at 941-776-1395 to be added to the volunteer Coffee Bite list.

Also needed are volunteers to be Greeters on Sunday morning from 10:00 to 10:25 am. The church receives compliments because visitors feel welcomed and many times are introduced to Church members. We only have about 11 volunteers to be Greeters and so we can't always give them a month off. It's a great way to uplift your spirits as you begin your Sunday. If you can help out, please call the Church Office.

George and Carol Priest are especially wonderful at stepping in when they see Greeters have not shown up.



Jesus!

to those of you who help Fellowship out with your Free Will offerings at the coffee bar. That money helps Faith purchase coffee, juice and paper products for our Coffee Bites. It is greatly appreciated.

