

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church
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November, 2022



Grace, mercy and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

In the early 1500's Martin Luther rediscovered the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Studying the text of Romans 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,^[e] as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith.", Luther learned that God gave us His righteousness as a gift. Before this it was most often understood that man had to become righteous before God would save him. Through his study of the original language came to discover that it was God doing the work and mankind was the passive recipient. This is demonstrated in another section of the Bible that I studied recently. John 2:1-11 is the first miracle of Christ, turning water to wine. When we first look at the text it seems odd that Jesus would choose this as His first miracle. After all there were much more dramatic things that He could have done. Like our last Sunday reading of healing a paralytic, or raising someone from the dead. Those would have certainly caught the peoples attention, and started His ministry with a bang. So why turn water to wine? It is because in doing so He was subtly communicating the reason He came to earth. In this miracle we see redemption being played out on a small scale.

How is that you ask? Glad you did. This is how. The bridegroom was responsible for providing for the food and drink for his guests, but this was more than just giving everyone a good time. It was a demonstration of his ability to provide for his bride and future family. He was showing that he knew how to plan and budget and provide for. By running out of wine, he was quite possibly ruining his reputation for the rest of his life. He had failed to plan rightly. He could not be trusted, he himself was a failure. But Jesus steps in and saves the day, quite literally. He saves the bridegrooms reputation, and even enhances it by producing such high quality wine and in such large quantities. The Bridegrooms failure was redeemed by Jesus.

This is exactly what Jesus does for all of us. We are supposed to live perfect and holy lives, but because of sin we are failures and our reputation is ruined before God. But Jesus through His perfect life, death and resurrection steps in and saves the day. Not just our reputations are saved, but our very lives. So when we read the story of the water being turned to wine we recognize that even when we fail, Christ turns that failure into blessing.

CONTINUED

Just like the bridegrooms reputation was saved and enhanced with others in his community, so also through the grace of Jesus Christ, blessing us and giving us His holiness, we are enabled to spread His grace to others in our community and bless them. Not because we are special, but because Jesus has stepped into our lives and makes us look so much better than we are without Him. Without Him we are sinners and doomed to hell. With Him we are saints, perfect in the eyes of God and able to do good works for our neighbor. All of this because He gives us His righteousness as a gift.

Let us rejoice that Jesus is our Savior and substitute and blesses even our shortcomings with his grace and mercy. Amen.

Pastor Pooch



November 1st, known as All Saints Day, Faith Lutheran will be remembering and thanking God for All Saints, both dead and living on Sunday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 9.

It is a day to glorify Jesus Christ, who by his holy life and death has made the Saints holy through Baptism and faith.

In recognition of Veteran's Day, November 11th, we will be recognizing our Military Veterans on November 13th and November 16th. Veterans are encourage to wear one of their "covers" or caps from their time of service to wear when they are recognized at the beginning of the Divine Services.



CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT CHURCH DECORATING

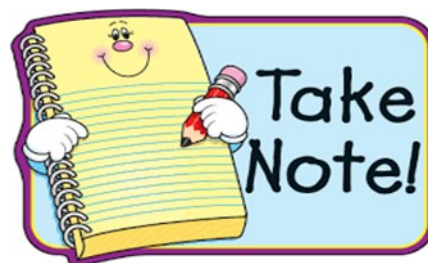


It's getting to be that time of the year and Faith Lutheran will be needing a little of your time and talents. We will be decorating the church for Advent and Christmas on Saturday, November 26th, starting at 9 am. In the past, we've had a great turnout which made the task much easier. Both young and old are encouraged to help in setting up the trees in the church. We are usually able to accomplish the work in less than 2 hours. We do not plan on having a sign up sheet, just mark your calendars and come join us. If you have any suggestions for this year's decorations or questions, contact Dennis Steinke at 815-289-0057.



OUR FOOD BARREL

Please be generous with your donations as the need is great especially due to the hurricane and the holidays coming up. Get your shopping lists ready so we can continue our blessing to those in need.



Our Church Directory is Online!

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

To view the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.

There is also a free mobile app available for download at the Apple® App store in iTunes®, Google Play™ store and the Amazon Fire App Store. Simply search for "Instant Church Directory" to get the download.

You will need to use your email address as listed in our directory to create a log-in the first time you use the directory online and via the mobile app.

Need help or have questions?

Please contact _____

Replace with church
LOGO

Our Church Directory is powered by *Instant Church Directory*.

This is Faith's new directory for all to take part in. The church has put in emails for you to get started.

Your task is to go online to:

Members.InstantChurchDirectory.com and follow the prompts "under sign in" to "create a login now".

You can enter your information for other Faith Members to contact you and see a photo of you or your family.

Please do your best to help us create this directory. Only Faith Lutheran members will be able to view this directory. Your information will not be shared!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
October 11, 2022

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

PRESENT: President Glen Collier; Elder Mert Janovec; Financial Secretary John Niemi; Treasurer Barb Wikel; Communications Kelly Freeman.

Absent: Pastor Pooch; Vice-President Jim Jones; Secretary Laura Matson; Trustee Dave Benson; LWML Marilyn Howard.

Guests: Martha Riedl

Opening Devotion: Led by Mert Janovec; Devotion was "True Freedom vs. False Freedom", the October 11 study from Martin Luther's Through Faith Alone.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SECRETARY: Absent; Minutes for September were previously submitted and approved by email. Kelly Freeman offered to record minutes for the October meeting.

TREASURER:

Transition to Gusto payroll is in progress with a first pay date using the system on 10/21. Revised Engagement Letter with the accountant has been prepared. Bank statements are being reconciled with Shepherd's Staff and balance sheet. Accountant reported that reconciliations for September await entry from offering count team. John Niemi indicated all entries for September have been completed. Draft of 2023 budget will be available for review at November Council meeting in preparation for Voters' Assembly meeting in December. Reward points available from church credit cards – A motion was made by Mert Janovec and seconded by Barbara Wikel to use these points to obtain gift cards for the military members collection organized by the Lannons. The Council approved the motion.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Q3 offerings totaled \$97,701.66; The congregation donated \$1,085 for the Q3 Mission campaign. In addition, the Council also earlier in the year approved a \$7,500 lump-sum donation for this Mission.

VP: Absent

PRESIDENT: Discussed new business below.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor was Absent due to being at the Doxology Conference.

BOARD CHAIRMAN REPORTS:

COMMUNICATION:

Movie night for October has 34 people signed up. Need a substitute host for November. GriefShare ads for November and December sessions will be ordered.

Ad for the Church will be placed in SCC Observer special "Welcome Back" publication.

ELDERS:

GriefShare will host seminars on Surviving the Holidays on November 13 at 2 pm and Loss of a Spouse on December 4 at 2 pm.

Advent begins on November 27. Decorating the church for Christmas will be done on November 26.

Chuck Moore has been appointed as a new Elder. Elder assignments will be redistributed.

The Member List is being reviewed and those who have not attended church in the past year are being contacted to determine their wishes for membership status.

TRUSTEES: Absent; Report was submitted that minor damage to the roof by Hurricane Ian has been repaired (~\$600). A workday has been scheduled for October 15 to remove storm debris from the hurricane.

LWML: Absent: Report submitted:

Regular meeting and Bible Study on October 13 with an activity for Hope Seeds. Any volunteers from the congregation are welcome to join to help. Come at 11:00 a.m. to pack seeds. Lunch will be provided by LWML and then everyone will resume packing seeds until finished.

Next meeting is scheduled on November 10. In addition to the meeting and Bible Study, LWML will be packing Hygiene Kits for Project Heart.

The FL-GA District Convention in Tampa was cancelled due to Hurricane Ian.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting is scheduled for December 11. Slides from the 2021 meeting were distributed to Council Members. Each is asked to prepare their materials for the 2022 meeting for review at the November Council meeting.

Council Positions Rotating Out - Several positions on the Council need to be filled for 2023 including Vice-president; Recording Secretary, and Outreach / Communications board chair.

Building Fund Campaign for new roof – no discussion

OLD BUSINESS:

Revision of the Membership Ministry Interests Form is being completed by Roy Heflin and Laura Matson in order for the new forms to be available at the Annual Voters' Assembly meeting.

The next Council meeting will be on **November 8** at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. followed by The Lord's Prayer.



Filling shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** is in full swing and we are grateful to those filling the shoe boxes. Filled shoeboxes should be placed on the Operation Christmas Child table. The check for \$10.00 (made out to Samaritan Purse) can be placed in the shoebox or mailed in the envelope provided, directly to Samaritan's Purse. **ALL SHOEBOXES MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13.**



Beautiful 2023 'GOD'S CREATION' appointment calendars are now available for only \$5.00 after church services in the Narthex. They make great gifts and the proceeds go to support our Fellowship activities. Consider purchasing one to have for listing all your Faith activities on and/or as gifts. Please put your dollars/checks, made out to Faith Lutheran Church, in the box provided.

LWML ladies will meet on November 10th at 9:30 for coffee with Bible Study at 10 am. and a business meeting to follow. We will be discussing our Christmas luncheon, Christmas for the shut-ins and a Cookie Walk. And then, we will be packing hygiene kits for Project Heart in Manatee County. All ladies are invited to come and join us.



The Annual Voters Assembly will be Sunday, December 11th, following the 10:30 am service (there will only be one Service on that Sunday). It will be a general report, budget approval and election of officers meeting. This is an important part of the well-being of Faith Lutheran Church and we look forward to all members participation in this yearly meeting.

Any Member or Associate Member, over the age of 18 may be a voting member. All you need to do is sign the voters' registry and attend the meeting.



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And then, we will be packing hygiene kits for Project Heart in Manatee County. All ladies are invited to come and join us.

Last month the ladies of Faith (about 15) met at 11 am to pack seeds for HOPE SEEDS INTERNATIONAL. We packed 1300 packets of watermelon seeds to send to places needing a brighter future and to help relieve hunger. Linda and Laurie Anderson provided the materials and set up the ladies with seeds, spoon, baggies and stickers for the fun project. These ladies volunteer with HOPE SEEDS in Bradenton. Following the packing we had a lunch of chili and tacos and all the trimmings with yummy desserts provided by Patti Littlejohn.



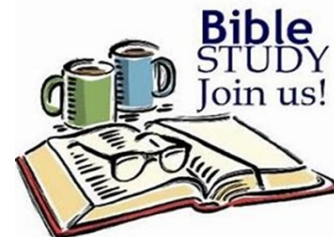
Janice Cascio and Vickie Gilbert are pictured here enjoying fellowship and the packing of watermelon seeds.

Thanks to all who took part in this service project and especially to Patti for her tasty lunch.

LWML is hoping to do it again in the Spring. Hope more of our Faith friends will volunteer to help at that time.

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...

Pastor's Adult Bible Classes

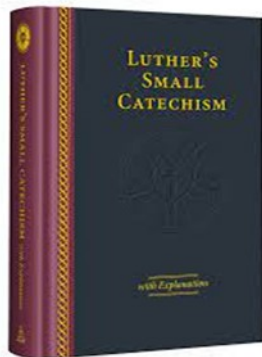


Pastor's Sunday Bible Classes begin at 9:15 in the Great Hall.

We are currently learning about Martin Luther through videos and then discussing the videos. This will continue through the month of November. *Please come, have a cup of coffee and a donut, and share in the learnings of Martin Luther.*

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

Pastor's Wednesday Bible are at 3:30 and 6:30 pm in the Great Hall. His study is based on the book of Revelations.



Pastor Pook is currently conducting Adult Catechism Classes on Mondays at 6:30 pm and Youth Catechism Classes on Sundays at 12 noon.

The Lighthouse Bible Study with Roy Heflin meets on the third Friday of each month at 7 pm. in Sun City Center.

PRAYER PARTNERS

*Sweet Hour of Prayer, Sweet Hour of Prayer,
that takes me from a world of care.*

When we turn to the Lord in prayer, it is comforting to remember that He has promised to answer our prayers. The Bible also tells us to pray without ceasing. Our church is a church of prayer. If you would like to join this ministry, contact:

Jean at jroehrs27@gmail.com





NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHT

For the next several months, movie night will be showing the Chronicles of Narnia series. It is a series of seven fantasy novels by British author C.S. Lewis. The Chronicles of Narnia have been adapted for radio, television, stage, and film.

Our first in this series, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", will be shown on Friday, November 11th in the Great Hall at 6 pm. with pizza, salad and beverages served at 5:30 pm.

This fantasy film is about four British children evacuated during the Blitz to the countryside, who find a wardrobe that leads to the fantasy world of Narnia, where they ally with the lion, Asia, against the forces of Jadis, the White Witch.

We hope you'll mark your calendars and join us. We do ask that you please sign up on the Blue Table to attend so we can plan for enough food.

December's movie date will be December 9th at 6 pm.



GRIEFSHARE

GRIEFSHARE is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is lead by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help others through the difficult days ahead. Our Next 13 week session will begin in January 2023.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

GriefShare will be meeting for two special sessions. The first is on Sunday, November 13th at 2 pm titled "SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" and again on Sunday, December 4th at 2 pm titled "LOSS OF A SPOUSE". It will be a 2 hour video and discussion. These special sessions are open to anyone needing support help as we enter this Holiday Season. For more information, please contact the Church office at 941-776-1395.

**IN PREPARATION FOR
THE CHRISTMAS SEASON,
WE INVITE YOU TO LEND YOUR TALENTS**



The Bell Choir continues to rehearse on Thursdays at 6 pm. . If you want to lend your talents to this ministry for God's Glory, please contact the Church Office.

**AND TO ADD HOLIDAY SPIRIT, WE ARE INVITING YOU TO ORDER
POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**



Once again, it is that time of year that invites members and friends to purchase poinsettias that will adorn our church Altar for the Christmas Holiday. Plant or plants can be purchased for \$10.00 each. Order forms are available on the Christmas table for you to complete and place in an envelope with cash or check (made out to Faith Lutheran Church with Poinsettia on the memo line) and put it in the box provided. PLEASE be sure to indicate your preference for the donation (in memory of , in honor of).

Wednesday, November 30th will be the final date to accept orders. We are ordering only 40 plants so be sure to get your order in today. You can take your plants home following the December 28th or January 1st Divine Services.

We are grateful to Berea Noah Pooch for her work in the Manatee County 4-H and their help in providing our Poinsettias this year.



ESSENTIAL READING

Along with The Bible, the hymnal, the Catechism, The book of Concord and other prayer books, the Pastor will be introducing great children's books for your bookshelves or your grand and great grandchildren's bookshelves.

FELLOWSHIP



Coffee Fellowship

Our coffee-bites on Sunday mornings following the 10:30 Divine Service have been a great time of fellowship and meeting new friends at Faith. We're glad to be reconnecting with many of our northern Associate Members. Volunteers have been most helpful in having sweet treats here to enjoy on their assigned Sunday. Thank you also for your FREE WILL offerings that help Fellowship purchase coffee and paper goods.

If you are interested in volunteering to bring in 3 doz. cookies or 2 doz. pastries (homemade or store bought) every other month, please see Monica or Margaret.



We are grateful to Glen and Sandy Collier who bring in donuts every week for Bible Study .



We celebrated Pastor Appreciation Month on Sunday, October 9th with cake and cookies during our coffee-bites fellowship. The cake was delicious and we were all grateful to acknowledge our dedicated Pastor.

Advent

On November 30th, we will have our first Advent Service at 5 pm followed by a light meal of soup and sandwiches provided by the LWML Ladies. Please be sure to sign up on the blue table if you will be attending the meal so we know how many to provide for.

This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5pm

November 9	Alice Bowen
November 16	Susan Barber/Monica
November 23	Eloise Schwarz
November 30	Gwyn Pook

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

Nov. 6	Martha Riedl / Nancy Niemi
Nov. 13	Janie Zanella / Debbie Haney
Nov. 20	Meta Green / Chris Stisser
Nov. 27	Monica Carenza / Kiah Pook

Elders

Wednesdays, 5 pm

November 2	NO SERVICE
November 9	Chuck Moore
November 16	Mike Freeman
November 23	Mike Freeman
November 30	Mike Freeman

Assistant

David Barber
Joe Rawlinson
Jeff Sattanno
Curt McCarty

Sundays, 8:00 am

November 6	Tom Weiss
November 13	Dennis Steinke
November 20	Roy Heflin
November 27	Tom Weiss

Sundays, 10:30 am

Chuck Moore
Dennis Steinke
Roy Heflin
Chuck Moore

Assistant

Gary Bonadurer
Chris Lindau
Caleb Pook
Chris Lindau

Offering Counters

November 6	Carol Schreiber, Judy Sattanno, John Niemi
November 13	Bonnie Wright, Marilyn Howard
November 20	John Niemi, Marti Katterhenry
November 27	Larry Colton, Arlene Gasper, Jean Roehrs

Thank you to all of you, who are assisting in these important functions of our Church.
****Note**** Counting normally takes place Monday, the next day following the offering.



Special Birthday Blessings to:

**Hilde Srubenas on her 96th birthday,
and Carol Emmelainz
as she celebrates her 93rd birthday.**

- 1 Joseph Rawlinson, Christine Stisser
- 3 Jean Roehrs, Annette Schander,
- 5 Stan Zygowicz
- 6 Gary Bonadurer, Norma Grotelueschen, Margi Krewin
- 7 Dorothy Frederick, Hilde Srubenas, Arlene Gasper
- 9 Tom Kaczmarek, Brad Teitelbaum
- 10 David Ladwig, Alexandra Laser
- 12 Mark Ryan
- 14 Carol Schreiber, Sandra Tuttle
- 16 Carol Emmelhainz, Laura Matson
- 17 Don Lannon Jr., Berea Noah Pooch
- 18 Barbara Gorman
- 20 Christian Lindau
- 22 Carol Albers, Delora Traster, Greg Wissner, Delora Traster
- 24 Paul Ryden
- 25 Rev. Kenneth Hinrichs
- 27 Marti Katterhenry
- 29 Kay Adkins



- 1 Aaron & Lisa Boettcher (25 yrs.)
- 2 Harry & Linda Wiedenmeyer (53 yrs.)
- 11 Stan & Carli Zygowicz (33 yrs.)
- 14 Robert & Sarah Biebl (41 yrs.)
- 26 Joe & Verna Barber (62 yrs)
- 28 Kevin & Sarah Stiene (35 yrs.)

WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith spent their last October meeting time stuffing pillows before their annual holiday display of Quilts and Lap-ropes, November 9-13. These quilts and pillows will be available to congregation members with a free will offering box in the Narthex.



A new member of Women of Faith would like to start a prayer shawl ministry and would like to encourage any who crochet or knit to join the group on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 9 to 11:30 am. to join. Questions, please contact Margie Weiss at 941-757-7307.



Women of Faith are busy stuffing pillows for their annual holiday Quilt and Pillow display. Remember to check out their beautiful work on November 13th and 16th.



Please remember our military this holiday season with your prayers and a donation that will allow Faith to purchase gift cards to send to family members of our Church on active duty. We want to show our gratitude to them this Christmas by sending Gift Cards along with our best wishes and prayers for a blessed holiday.

If you wish to donate, please place your contribution in the designated box on the blue table in the Narthex.

Thank you for your generosity and if you have any questions please contact: Lois Lannon at 941-981-9400 or

LoisGray@aol.com

Please place your contributions in the box by December 11th.



Observance of Veteran's Day

On November 6th and 9th, we will be recognizing Veteran's Day.

The Veteran's White Table will be set up and all veteran's are invited to wear a cap representing your "old" uniform, an American Legion, VF, or Marine Corps League cap to Sunday and Wednesday Divine Services.

ADVENT



Advent begins on Sunday,
November 27, 2022

Faith will be celebrating this time in preparation for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus with Wednesday Advent 5 pm services on November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st followed by a light meal provided by the committees of Faith.

Please plan on attending and sign up for each week's meal.