

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Over the last several months I have written about the Book of Concord and the different confessional documents that it contains. We started with the 3 ecumenical creeds and moved on to the central documents which are the Augsburg confession and its Apology. These documents form the core of our confessions.

Almost 50 years later, when the Lutheran church was under duress and in internal conflict the Formula of Concord was written to confirm what was indeed Lutheran theology and what was not. In doing so it confirmed that it was in agreement with the Augsburg Confession. The formula of Concord was the final document written in the Book of Concord, which was published a few years later. This Book of Concord gathered together in one place all the confessional documents that formed our theology. Included in this book were the Large and Small Catechisms, which were not written as confessions of the church, but where instructions for Pastors and Parents to teach the core of doctrine to their congregations and children respectively. Because they were so valuable and so highly regarded they were included as part of the Book of Concord.

There are two more documents that were included that we have not talked about yet. One, the Smalcald Articles, was written by Martin Luther, and is in fact the only real confessional document written by him. The other, the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, which is a tract that was written by Philip Melancthon as an addendum to the Smalcald articles.

After the Diet of Augsburg in 1530, where they were allowed to read their confession, the Lutherans asked for a free, evangelical and Christian council which would consider their teachings and also address the corruption within the church of Rome.

Six years later the Pope Paul III did convoke a council set to begin in May of 1537, but he said the purpose was the "utter extirpation, of the poisonous, pestilential Lutheran heresy." It was clear that this would not be a fair hearing. The Lutherans were startled and bewildered by the hateful tone, and were unclear what to do. Finally the Elector, John Fredrick of Saxony, asked Luther to write an ultimatum in response. The result is what we now know as the Smalcald Articles. This is often considered Luther's last will and testament as he felt he would be killed soon and he wanted a clear statement of his faith in his own hand.

The topics addressed are much the same as those of the Augsburg confession and the Formula of Concord. It starts with issues that both parties agreed upon, the Trinity and the deity of Christ as confessed in the Apostles' Creed.

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Next he emphasizes Justification by faith alone, without works. Here he also rejects the concepts of the Mass as sacrifice, the invocation of the saints and purgatory. He also repudiates the office of the papacy. He makes it clear that the popes exercise of supremacy over the church and state demanding absolute submission in both is against scripture. He rejects the idea of the pope being able to declare new doctrines to be true even when it contradicts scripture, as such the papacy is the “antichrist”, since it can declare anti Christian doctrines as true.

After this he then addresses Sin, the Law and the Gospel. The administration of the Gospel, particularly Baptism, the Lord’s Supper and the office of the keys or Confession and Absolution. He states the Word and the sacraments are God’s means of grace and he discusses the errors of Rome concerning these things. Finally he addresses excommunication, ordination, celibacy of the priests, the relationship between justification and sanctification, monastic vows and human tradition.

Melanchthon’s treatise adds to Luther’s stand against the Papacy. He rejects the “divine right” of superiority over all other pastors and bishops as well as the claim of his authority and power over the state. Finally he declares that excommunication should only be applied to impenitent sinners and must be handled with pray and humility and with much care.

The Smalcald Articles is the most “Luther-esqe” writing that we have in the Book of Concord. He is blunt and to the point. For various reasons the Articles were not immediately accepted, but soon after they were written his friend, Rev Bugenhagen, persuaded 44 leading theologians to sign it. In 1580 when the Book of Concord was first published it was recognized as an official Lutheran confession.

We have now completed a brief overview of the foundational documents of the Lutheran Confession of faith. I pray that this might encourage you to dig deeper into your faith and allow these teachings to be a firm foundation of the gift of faith that has been given to us all in our Baptisms, by grace alone, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor Poock

There will **NOT** be Bible Studies nor 5 pm Divine Service
on
Wednesday April 3rd.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING March 12, 2024

Present: President Glen Collier, VP Greg Wissner, Financial Secretary John Niemi, Treasurer Barbara Wikel, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, and Pastor Pooock.
Absent: Outreach Caleb Pooock, Trustee Dave Benson, and Elder Tony Bowen.
Guests Larry and Ann Colton.

Pastor shared a reading from *Minute Messages* discussing what we *really* need in life. He offered prayer for several members with immediate needs.

Minutes of 2-13-24 were approved.

Financial Secretary: report distributed.

Treasurer: The books have been closed for 2023. Barbara is wrapping up accounts in anticipation of changing banks.

Pastor: Pastor presented several possible recipients for this year's **outreach donations:** the church he attended in South Sudan which currently has no roof; a plan to supply 8 South Sudan native pastors with a team of oxen, each, to raise crops and support themselves. They currently work for no pay. Each project would require \$15-20,000. A third option is to supply financial assistance to a local author who has done extensive research on ancient Biblical history. He needs additional software to assist in his research with the goal of publishing his findings in the future. This is estimated at \$20-40,000. Pastor was asked to provide more information before a decision is made. These requests would be funded with undesignated bequests so that the congregation might share their blessings with others in need.

Homeschool: Pastor pointed out the growing popularity of homeschooling. He has been approached about opening the church to a Homeschool Coop where 25 children, 6-8th grade, could attend 3 days a week and learn practical skills as well as the usual classes. He would also be able to present some classes. The council expressed that they found this a great out-reach to the community and especially families with children. He will present more information at the next meeting.

4 H: Pastor also mentioned the possibility of sponsoring a 4 H club.

Time Away: Pastor will take off the week after Easter to rest up. He will be attending a LCMS Chaplain's Conference April 8-12. He has been offered an opportunity to fulfill his reserve duties by spending 2 weeks in June and 2 weeks in July at MacDill AFB. He would not have to be there Sundays.

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VP: No report,**President:** No report.**Communication:** Absent.**Elders:** Pastor reported that the Men's group is going well. They will have a work day to build a ramp for a member in need.**LWML:** They will be hosting the Sarasota Zone Spring Rally this Saturday. Pastor and Gwyn are the mission speakers. Pastor will also lead the worship service with communion.**Trustee:** Absent.**NEW BUSINESS** None**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****Congregational Assistance Program**

John Niemi presented a detailed work document for the program complete with worksheets and forms. The council had received this previously and had an opportunity to review it in detail. After further discussion, John MOVED adoption of the document. The motion was seconded and carried with all voting yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Jean E Roehs**Lutheran Women in Mission**

Our March meeting featured 'Thank You' for all the Volunteer help: in organizing, set up and clean up and providing for the Zone Rally Annunciation Service, Missionary Information from Pastor and Gwyn and lots of good food.

We will be taking all the toddler items we have been collecting to Redlands Christian Migrant Association the first week of April. They can also use adult clothing items, if you have any to donate.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 am**. Gwyn will do the Bible Study and we will review our Spring Rally. Please join us ladies.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR CURRENCY and/or CHANGE CONTRIBUTION TO MITES.
(Please NO half-dollars, foreign coins or objects, or really dirty coins)

EASTER LILIES

Thanks to all who requested Lilies to help
make our Altar beautiful for the Risen Lord.

Kristine Bearse, *in Memory of My Mother*, Irma Fleischer.

Norm Bothun, *in Memory of Mary*, Mom, Dad and Dave.

Bob & Janice Cascio, *in Memory of Our Parents*.

Glen Collier, *in Memory of Sandy Collier* and
in Honor of Bill & Mable Ludwig and
Claude & Lorene Collier.

Larry & Ann Colton, *in Memory of James & Polly Colton*
and Cecilia & Larry Beardsley.

Greg & Arlene Gasper, *in Memory of Our Loved Ones*.

Margaret Greenslade, *in Memory of Loving Family Members*.

David & Jeanette Hinman, *in Memory of Our Parents and Siblings*.

Nancy Kendall, *in Memory of My Parents*.

Ron & Donna Koenig, *in Memory of Parents*,
Carroll & Fern Aby and Charles & Florence Koenig and
Daughters & Brothers, Diane Pickens-Burns,
Charles and Kenneth Koenig, Eldon Aby and
General Sherman & Little Guy.

Darrell & Karen Krohn, *in Honor of Our Risen Savior* and the blessings of Children,
Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

Rosanna Markel, *in Memory of Nevin Markel & Christopher Markel*.

Christine Melchior, *in Memory of Beloved Husband*, Roger Melchior.

Paulette Natzke, *in Memory of Ken Natzke*.

Lise Pedersen, *in Memory of Al Manship*.

John & Margo Reid, *in Memory of Our Parents* and Margo's Brother.

Paulette Stoddard, *in Memory of William and Genevieve Deery*.

Richard & Barb Wormald, *in Memory of the Wormald Family* and
Wayne & Viola Snyder.

Bonnie Wright, *in Memory of Son*, Rick Mason and Hilda and Gene Rebello.



This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

April 3 NO SERVICE
 April 10 Eloise Schwarz
 April 17 Monica Carezza
 April 24 Chuck & Teresa Moore

Sundays, 8:00 am

April 7 Martha Riedl
 April 14 Martha Riedl
 April 21 Marth Riedl
 April 28 Meta Green

10:30 am

Nancy Niemi
 Pat Barlow
 Chris Stisser
 Gwyn Pook

Elders

Sundays, 8:00 am.

April 7 Tom Weiss
 April 14 Dennis Steinke
 April 21 Tom Weiss
 April 28 Dennis Steinke

10:30 am.

Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow
 Jack Conte
 Tom Barlow

Assistant Assistant

Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pook
 Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pook

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm.

April 3 NO SERVICE
 April 10 Tony Bowen
 April 17 Mert Janovec
 April 24 Tony Bowen

Assistant

Jeff Sattanno
 Curt McCarty
 Dave Barber

COUNTERS: April 1 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber, Tom Barlow
 April 8 John Niemi, Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg
 April 15 Marilyn Howard, Bonnie Wright, Marti Katterhenry
 April 22 Larry Colton, Jean Roehrs
 April 29 Marilyn Howard, Bonnie Wright, Marti Katterhenry

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Oliver Lundgren
- 3 Rev. David Hinman
- 6 Tony Bowen
- 8 John Reid, Jim Wills
- 10 Alec Carpp
- 12 Ruth Pope
- 13 Jeff Wright
- 15 Rev. Lee Stisser, Richard Wormald
- 16 Lois Vanderbeck
- 19 Sarah Biebl
- 20 Sandy Otto
- 22 David Benson, Crissia Reay
- 28 Mark Fluegge
- 30 Louis Courtney



Special Birthday Blessings to
Ruth Pope on her 92nd and Lois Vanderbeck on her 97th
Birthdays



- 2 Hanna & Milford Hughes (13 years)
- 12 Jeff & Bonnie Wright (27 years)
- 16 Richard & Barbara Wormald (53 years)
- 17 Larry & Carol Eichert (36 years)
- 23 George & Carol Priest (58 years)
- 26 Joe & Sally James (15 years)
- 26 Thomas & Renee Kaczmarek (21 years)
- 28 Dick & Barbara Russ (62 years)
- 29 Dr. Krishan & Barbara Nayyar (48 years)



Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...



Bible Study

Bible Classes & Sunday School

Our **Sunday Bible Class** meets at **9:15 am** in the Great Hall led by Pastor Pooch. We learning about the Book of Concord. *Come and have a cup of coffee with the group and join in the discussions.* The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

Pastor also leads a **Bible Study on Wednesdays** at 3:30 and 6:30 pm in the Great Hall.

They are studying the book of Revelations. Come and learn and then stay for the 5 pm. Divine Service.

Please note: There will NOT be Wednesday Bible Studies on April 3rd and 10th. There will be a Divine Service on April 10th at 5 pm.

GRIEFSHARE Session VI will begin on April 15, 2024. We have had some very successful 13 week sessions with about 12-15 participants. We have seen lots of moving through "mourning to joy". Anyone who is experiencing a loss and needs some support is more than welcome to attend. We meet at 6:30 pm. on Monday evenings in the Great Hall. Anyone interested in being a facilitator, please see Mert Janovec or Pastor.

FOOD BARREL DONATIONS

Many thanks to all who have been so generous in filling up our food barrel. Items of priority this month are: toilet tissue, canned fruit, bottles of fruit juice and toiletries.

Larry Colton is volunteering his time to work with the United Methodist Church of Parrish to provide for homeless and needy families here in Manatee County who need paper products and food items. Larry will be delivering our food barrel items to the Methodist Church weekly. Please be generous and let's keep the FOOD BARREL overflowing.



HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

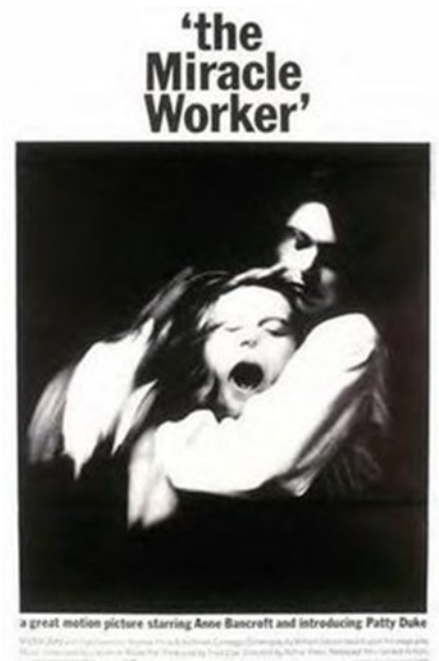
WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith continue to meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month to put together their beautiful quilts. They still need sewers! Anyone who crochets or knits can also come to produce prayer shawls. Join us the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 9 am to 11:30 am. We promise to start you off easy. Concerns or questions, please contact, Marjorie Weiss 941-757-7307.

The Movie for April is a 'The Miracle Worker'. It will be shown in the Great Hall on Friday, April 12th at 6 pm. Pizza will be available at 5:30 pm. Please be sure to sign up at the blue table, if you plan on attending.

The movie is about young Helen Keller, blind and deaf since infancy due to a severe illness. She is frustrated and angry by her inability to communicate and subject to frequent uncontrollable outbursts. Unable to deal with her, her terrified and helpless parents seek assistance. A battle of wills ensues as Anne, her tutor, breaks down Helen's walls of silence and darkness through persistence, love and sheer stubbornness.

Please plan on joining us for this 1962 American Biographical film about Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller.



If you are a [northern snowbird](#) and returning to your northern home, please complete a form found on the Narthex blue table telling us your northern address and plans for returning. Thank you.

The Second Quarter Elder Mission Project for 2024 is Redeeming Life (Crisis Pregnancy) LCMS sponsored in Orlando, Florida. Your checks can be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with REDEEMING LIFE or SECOND QTR. MISSION on the memo line and placed in a pew envelope.



Lenten Meals:

We are delighted with the response from Volunteers and Attendance at our Wednesday Lenten Meals.

The first Wednesday Lenten Meal was hosted by **LWML**. It consisted of 4 soups, sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, February 28th the **Church Council and FELLOWHIP** hosted a meal of 3 Soups, Sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 6th was hosted by **Elders and Altar Guild**. They had three delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 13th was hosted by the ladies of **Women of Faith**. They provided varieties of salads, 'Chimney Cake' chicken sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 20th was hosted by the **Church Council and Fellowship**. They also had a variety of chilis and sloppy jo sandwiches along with egg and chicken salad sandwiches and desserts.

Hope all who attended enjoyed their light suppers and will join us again for our Advent Light Suppers. If you have any ideas or concerns, please make Margaret aware of them.

Sincere thanks to those who stepped in and helped with the clean up each week.

