



# The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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Lutheran Witness Article April 2024 Liturgy Brings Order to Our Disorder, By Leah Broman

Psalm 119 petitions the Lord, “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me” (Psalm 119:133 KJV).

We need this prayer. The world presents many opportunities that shift our attention, invert our priorities, and lead us into disorder and sin. Even within the broad spectrum of American Christianity, much of the music, lyrics and common jargon can elicit disorder: from the focus on the individual instead of Jesus which may be found in some contemporary Christian music, to the empty platitudes in “religious” greeting cards, to the common “deeds before creeds” Christian mentality, to name just a few.

While God’s ways are always orderly, in this sinful earthly life worldly and even avowedly Christian influences can bring disorder to our lives. As we daily battle the devil, the world and our flesh, the church ought to aid in spiritual and temporal living, not create more chaos.

One of the potent ways the church can resist disorder and chaos is through the liturgy. The liturgy roots people in God’s Word. Doing so, it equips us for life and vocation: it teaches us how to pray, catechizes us to attest to our faith, instructs us in the faith, and brings God’s Word to mind throughout our days.

Liturgy roots us in God’s Word

The Lutheran liturgy is first and foremost scriptural. This underpinning in and of itself imbues order. The scriptural foundation can be observed in the Hymn of Praise, which is based on the song of the heavenly hosts in Luke 2:14 and John’s proclamation of Jesus as the Lamb of God in John 1:29. The Salutation imitates the greetings in the Lord given by Boaz (Ruth 2:4), Paul (2 Thess. 3:16) and others. Psalm 51 is the basis for the Offertory. Simeon’s song in Luke 2:29–32 provides us with the Nunc Dimittis. Setting Three in Lutheran Service Book contains more than 30 Scripture references. Throughout the liturgy, the pastor and congregation proclaim God’s Word to God and to each other in a structured, orderly way.

The words of the liturgy also bring comfort, as they are based on God’s unchanging Word. Bringing comfort to the saints is one of the fivefold uses of Scripture, alongside doctrine, refutation, encouragement to good works, and decrying ungodly ways of life.[1] Just as God does not change, neither does His Word. This immutable nature of Scripture brings comfort and peace in an ever-changing world of disorder. Through the scripturally based liturgy we hear the words and promises of God, and we are comforted, even as the world buffets us.

Liturgy equips us for life, witness and vocation

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The liturgy teaches us how to pray. Its prayers are drawn from the inspired prayers of Scripture — such as the Psalms — and from prayers that have been used by centuries of Christians. Throughout the liturgy — the collects, Lord’s Prayer, creeds, Confession, Kyrie and more — we are given words to pray which are based on Scripture and keep our focus outside ourselves, on our unchanging God. One of the ancient liturgical prayers, the Litany, dates back at least 1,500 years and addresses a host of spiritual and physical needs in its petitions. Whether we are young or old, are newly baptized or have walked decades in the faith, the liturgy supplies models of prayer for us to imitate daily. These models ground us in an orderly approach to our prayers, even in times when we are experiencing the challenges of confusion and even chaos.

The liturgy also furnishes orderly language for witnessing. When a response to a friend’s difficult life situation is “Lord, have mercy,” it conveys more empathy and thoughtfulness than “I’m so sorry to hear that.” When in thanksgiving we express to a family member, “Alleluia!” or “Thanks be to God!” we simultaneously confess our faith and impact the faith of another with the help of the Holy Spirit. When school children sing the Magnificat while cleaning up their school building, they profess their faith to all who are present. As we proclaim in the common Alleluia verse, based on Peter’s confession in John 6:68, “You have the words of eternal life,” the liturgical expression, along with the rest of Scripture, strengthens us in our ability to confess our faith in an orderly way to those who are disorganized and disoriented by the world.

In addition, the liturgy presents the faith in an organized and structured manner, thereby equipping parents to fulfill the command of Deuteronomy 6 to teach their children. The old saying is “lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi” — “as we worship, so we believe, so we live.” When we hear, speak and sing the liturgy in each church service, we are learning the faith, which then helps us steadfastly live it out in our lives. Parents, through the vocations of fatherhood and motherhood, can apply their knowledge of the liturgy to teach and reinforce faith at home.

Moreover, the liturgy hides God’s Word in our hearts, enabling it to surface in everyday moments, as well as when words fail, or memories are clouded or long forgotten. When we are steeped in the liturgy and Scripture, it can pour forth in a well-ordered and efficacious way from our lips in times of loss, sadness and joy. Stories abound of seniors who struggle to remember the names of their spouses, children or other loved ones, but can sing the Te Deum or recite the Lord’s Prayer. In times such as these, we witness to our family, our neighbors, the medical community assisting a loved one, a friend on social media, and all with whom the Lord brings us into contact.

Everything we do is a confession. Just as the Augsburg Confession is a formal profession of our Lutheran beliefs, everything we speak and do furnishes a statement of our faith. When we sing the liturgy, or express “Lord, have mercy” within a sympathy card, or live out our vocations through the words and promises of Scripture contained throughout our worship, we are confessing to the world and bringing God’s promises and order to our lives. The Lutheran liturgy provides a stronghold of faith that establishes us in the Word and serves us faithfully here on earth, bringing order to this disordered world.

*Rev. Patrick Poock*

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2024

Present: President Glen Collier, Financial Secretary John Niemi, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Elders Tony Bowen, Trustee David Benson.

Absent: VP Greg Wissner, Treasurer Barbara Wikel, Outreach Caleb Poock, and Pastor Poock.

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was established. He opened the meeting with a devotional asking 'how can we know what is God's will'. Tony offered prayer.

The minutes of March 12, 2024 were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were filed.

President: No report. VP: Absent.

ELDERS: Pastor is attending an LCMS Chaplain's Conference.

LWML: The rally was a great success. Pastor and Gwyn's mission presentation was well received. John reported that the rally offering for Lutheran Heritage Foundation was \$802 with \$350 of that being in checks written to LHF. LWML is currently

collecting clothing for Redlands Migrant Ministry children ages infant to 5 years.

Trustee Report: All recent inspections were passed. The primary election was held March 19. We are obligated to host the general election in Nov. The church has been an election site for over 20 years. This entails a lot of work to clear the vestibule and then return the items after the election. At the last meeting there were several ideas for the use of the church proposed. In view of these items, John **MOVED** that the county be notified that we will no longer be a precinct voting site effective after the general election in Nov. **Motion seconded and carried** with all voting yes.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Donations:** Each year the council selects two charities to support with funds received from bequests. Three suggestions were proposed at the last meeting. Tony added another suggestion, Bridging Freedom, a residential facility in Tampa which aids girls who have been rescued from human trafficking. It is a Christian based ministry which houses 30 recipients at a time, providing counseling and other programs for rehabilitation. There are only a total of 40 beds for this in Tampa. After discussion, Jean **MOVED** that we select Bridging Freedom for our local donation and repair of the church roof in South Sedan for the other recipient. **Motion seconded and carried** with all voting yes.

Tony offered prayer and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Jean E. Roehrs* Jean E Roehrs, Recording Secretary





Fellowship continues to have "**Coffee Bites**" following the Sunday 10:30 am. Divine Services. Our willing volunteers are providing either 2 doz. pastries, 3 doz. cookies or donuts each Sunday. **AND GLEN COLLIER** provides donuts every Sunday for Bible Study.

Thank you too, for your contribution to the "Free Will" baskets to help Fellowship pay for coffee and other kitchen needs.

If you would like to help by volunteering to bring in your favorite sweets, please give your name and phone number to Monica or Margaret.

Fellowship would like to thank and recognize **Martha Riedl** and **Debbie Horbus** for volunteering to clean our coffee dispensers and coffee counter each Monday morning.



The Men's Breakfast Group will meet again in May. Watch for date, time and place to be decided at the April 27th breakfast. They are working on developing a "Work Plan" for projects for church members, or community projects. Hope our Faith Men will attend these breakfasts to voice their opinions and volunteer their help.





**Faith Lutheran's GriefShare Sessions began again on Monday, April 15th at 6:30 pm.**

## **GriefShare Program Faith Lutheran Church**

Many grieving people find that while they are beginning the task of healing, friends or family have already returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to suppress their grief. Instead, they need to allow themselves to learn to deal with their grief by attending our GriefShare programs on Mondays at 6:30 pm.

**CONFIDENTIALITY** is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may or may not be recent. We hope you can find comfort, encouragement and help in grieving, knowing that you can lessen the emotional impact of what to expect and being prepared.

**We invite anyone who has lost someone to come and share with us.**

If you want to take part in this GriefShare program, please call the Church Office (941-776-1395) to let one of the secretaries know of your interest.

Our first meeting of GriefShare session welcomed new mourners and they seemed to feel some comfort from the video and discussion time. Sherry Janovec's chocolate chip cookies were also well received. It is a very intense time, but most rewarding and enlightening for the facilitators and those who have attended previous sessions.





At the final meeting of the year, LWML ladies will have their Bible Study, Meeting and then the ladies will enjoy a taco luncheon prepared by LWML Volunteers. A nice way to close out the year. Hope you will consider joining us.

LWML May Bible Study and Meeting will be Thursday, May 9, 2024,  
at 10:00 am with refreshments served at 9:30 am  
Following the meeting, we will have a Taco Luncheon.  
This will be our last meeting until September.

Even though LWML does not meet during the summer months, please remember to continue bringing in your mites boxes to add to the large mite box or leave your mite box on the LWML table and take a new mite box. **(Please NO dollar coins, half-dollars, foreign coins/materials or really dirty coins)**



At the April LWML meeting on April 11th, Gwyn Pooch had the Bible Study followed by a wrap-up feedback and draft report of our Spring Zone Rally in March. Marilyn Howard, LWML president, and Judy Sattanno, secretary, were unanimously voted in for two more years.

Please check out Newsletter pages 13 and 14 for pictures from Eloise Schwarz : Pictures were taken at the LWML Spring ZONE RALLY that took place here at Faith on March 16th. It was a great time shared by all.

After registration, we began with a Divine Service with Communion and special music by Lillian Boettcher and Nancy Niemi. Then speakers Pastor and Gwyn shared their mission experiences, followed by a short business meeting and then a luncheon of donated salads, rolls and desserts.

All Participants were given a decorated wooden MITE BOX and a beautiful white CROSS. The theme was "Behold, I am the Servant of the Lord." Luke 1:38a.

Gifts from the Heart for Lutheran Heritage Foundation totaled \$802.00. Each zone unit in attendance received an introductory packet from LHF which included a CD that they can share with their unit and/or church.



Movie Night for May will be on Friday, May 10th at 5:30 pm for pizza and movie at 6:00 pm. The movie will be 'The Scarlet and the Black' with Gregory Peck and Christopher Plummer. The story takes place in the 1940s and tells the story of a real-life Catholic priest who saved thousands of Jews and escaped Allied POWs in Rome.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP on the blue table in the Narthex.



This Memorial Day, let us take a few minutes to honor our Country and give our thanks for a new year of love, joy and good health for all.

Faith Lutheran is proud to display their love of God and Country with the Flag Court Memorial.

The Memorial includes a large white cross, a U.S. flag, POW flag, five service flags and a Space Force flag.

This is a beautiful way to thank God for the many blessings provided our country, and it is our privilege to honor the men and women who have served and continue to honorably and proudly serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.



## HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

### WOMEN OF FAITH

Women of Faith continue their designing and sewing of quilts the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 9:00-11:00. Everyone is welcome.



It is with much sadness that Women of Faith had to say good-bye to Joyce Heanue who has sewn for Women of Faith for over 20 years and now must retire. She produced 4 or 5 quilts each session and will be sorely missed. Well done good and faithful servant.



### FOOD BARREL DONATIONS

We continue to collect items for our food barrel at this time, as the need is great. You can drop off paper products and/or food items here at church and Larry Colton will deliver them to the United Methodist Church, Parish, for distribution to families in need.

**Thank you so much** for helping this most worthy cause and sincere thanks to Larry Colton for delivering our food items each week.





*Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...*



## **Bible Study**

### **Bible Classes**

Pastor has a Bible Class on Wednesday at 3:30 & 6:30pm. Currently they are studying the book of Revelations.

Pastor's Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 am. presents in depth discussions of the Book of Concord. Please come and join us and get a cup of coffee or tea. The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.



**Sunday School for children meets at 9:15 am each Sunday under the direction of Lillian Boettcher.**



**Lifelight Bible Study is held the 3rd Friday of the month . This is led by Roy Heflin.**

### Prayer Chain of Faith

Even in his anguish, Job knew where to turn for assistance crying out, *Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high* (Job 16:19). Jesus is our advocate, also, and will testify for us on high if we but call on His name. If you have prayer needs, please make them 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 Jean Roehrs [jroehrs27@gmail.com](mailto:jroehrs27@gmail.com) and prayer requests will be sent to you via email. Thank you!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Sandra Oliver
- 3 Susan Hinrich
- 4 Sandra Piper
- 7 Rick Bartelt
- 9 Karen Hill, Debra Travis
- 11 Robert Harvey
- 12 Nancy Bonadurer
- 14 Chuck Moore
- 15 Susan Heflin, Chris Melchior
- 16 Sameer Madidi
- 17 Jeff Matson
- 18 Carl Schwarz
- 23 Brad Reay
- 26 Theodore Lundgren
- 30 Carol Priest
- 31 John Niemi



- 2 Norm and Rosanna Markel Bothun (5 years), Ken & Nancy Scheer (60 years)
- 3 Silas & Kate Pooch (3 years)
- 8 Jim & Barbara Pechtcl (36 years)
- 15 David & Vanessa Benson (25 years) , Jack & Hope Conte (38 years)
- 22 Pastor Kenneth & Susan Hinrich (48 years)
- 26 Ken & Sandra Piper (28 years)
- 27 Louis & Janet Courtney (64 years)





Behind-the-scenes couples and ladies enjoy preparing the Risen Lord's House including setting up the Altar for each service. Each person fills a unique role in volunteering to experience a spiritual ministry of caring for His House, they assist with baptisms, funerals and care for the flowers that grace the Altar. There are openings for persons dedicated to this prayerful work. If you are of the 'priesthood of the baptized', contact Eloise Schwarz for more information today. 414-807-4373 or email at [eloise6376@gmail.com](mailto:eloise6376@gmail.com). Thank you.

The Altar Guild will meet on Saturday, May 11th at 10:00 am for a meeting. If you can't make that meeting, they will meet again on Tuesday, May 14th at 10:00 am. Please mark your calendar for one of these dates.



**Catechism**

Future Catechism Classes will begin in the Fall. Please watch for more information at that time.

Ann Colton has been diligently working to get A "Visitation Mission" set up to see that all our 'Homebound Members' receive regular visits. If you are interested in serving our Church Community in this way, please give Ann a call at 941-685-3858 or email her at [coltonmac003@gmail.com](mailto:coltonmac003@gmail.com)





## This Month's Privileged Servants

### Altar Guild

#### Sundays, 8:00 am

May 5 Martha Riedl  
 May 12 Meta Green  
 May 19 Meta Green  
 May 26 Martha Riedl

#### Sundays, 10:30 am.

May 5 Nancy Niemi  
 May 12 Chris Stisser  
 May 19 Martha Riedl  
 May 26 Pat Barlow

#### Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

May 1 Eloise Schwarz  
 May 8 Gwyn Pooch  
 May 15 Eloise Schwarz  
 May 22 Monica Carezza  
 May 29 Teresa & Chuck Moore

### Elders

#### Sundays, 8:00 am.

May 5 Tom Weiss  
 May 12 Dennis Steinke  
 May 19 Tom Weiss  
 May 26 Dennis Steinke

#### Sundays, 10:30 am.

May 5 Jack Conte  
 May 12 Tom Barlow  
 May 19 Jack Conte  
 May 26 Tom Barlow

#### Assistant

Alex Boettcher  
 Caleb Pooch  
 Alex Boettcher  
 Caleb Pooch

#### Wednesdays, 5:00 pm.

May 1 Tony Bowen  
 May 8 Mert Janovec  
 May 15 Tony Bowen  
 May 22 Mert Janovec  
 May 29 Tom Barlow

#### Assistant

Jeff Sattanno  
 Curt McCarty  
 David Barber  
 Jeff Sattanno  
 Curt McCarty

### Offering Counters

May 6 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber, Tom Barlow  
 May 13 John Niemi, OPEN, Stu Lindberg  
 May 20 Marilyn Howard, OPEN  
 May 27 Larry Colton, Jean Roehrs





LWML LADIES



Zone Rally Organist: Doris Schnepel



LUCY FULLER AND FRIENDS **NOTE: MITE BOXES ON TABLE WERE GIVEN TO ALL**



BREAKFAST TABLE OF GOODIES



PASTOR & GWYN'S DISPLAY OF MEMORIALBLIA





MISSION SPEAKERS



LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE IS HAVING A GOOD TIME



TABLE CENTERPIECES



PASTOR SHARING HIS SOUTH SUDAN EXPERIENCES.



EVERYONE RECEIVED A WHITE CROSS