



The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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May 2025



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

He is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!! What a blessing to be able to say those words, knowing that they are true and because they are true, we know that our God and Father accepted the sacrifice of His Son on the Cross as payment for the guilt of all of mankind's sins. The peace that comes from that certainty is why we gladly come to church to celebrate the Divine Service where He continues to give out His gift of life freely in so many ways.

In our Baptism we were washed in the blood of the Lamb. I am reminded of an obscure reference in the Old Testament prophetic book of Ezekiel 36:25-27 which states "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules." Because we have been sprinkled with the waters of Baptism, we are clean, not of our physical filth, but of our spiritual filth, our sin. He has given us a new heart and His Holy Spirit is within us through those very same waters. We did nothing to deserve this, but it is a gift. What a marvelous blessing.

In the Absolution we are forgiven our sins by the Pastor as the ambassador of God to our church. Just this week we read in our Gospel lesson about the appearance of Jesus within the locked room where the disciples were hiding out of fear. When Jesus appears He gives them His peace and the Holy Spirit. He also gives them the responsibility and authority to forgive and retain sins. John 20:22-23 states "And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld." In these words Jesus sets the stage for the Confession and Absolution that we still celebrate today. As your Shepherd I have the extreme privilege of offering you Forgiveness of your sins. He gave this to the disciples who then gave it to the Pastors that followed them who eventually gave it to all our Pastor today. What a blessing to hear the words spoken aloud, so that you may hear them as not a figment of your own thoughts and wishes, but as coming objectively to you from the voice of your Pastor who has been called by God through

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Faith Lutheran's divine call to do this very thing. Be the voice of God to you. In Communion we eat and drink His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. John 6: 54-58 states "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread^[e] the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." We feed on His body and His blood and in doing so we know that even though we die, yet shall we live, because He lives in us. After saying these words, Jesus asked His disciples if they would abandon Jesus because this was a very hard saying. They responded by saying "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." Jn 6:68-69.

We sing those words in Divine Service setting One as we prepare to hear the Gospel. Here and in all the readings, the sermon and the rest of the liturgy we hear the Word of God spoken to us by God's Called and Ordained servant. Every Sunday we celebrate His death and resurrection and every Sunday, He gives us grace upon grace.

Let us always remember that our lives have been bought with a price and we are His. Let us thank and praise; serve and obey Him. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!! Amen.

Rev. Patrick Poock



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025**

Present: President Glen Collier, VP Greg Wessner, Treasurer Barbara Wikel; Financial Secretary Larry Colton, Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs, Altar Guild Eloise Schwarz, and Pastor Pooch. **Absent:** Elder Tony Bowen and Trustee Dave Benson. The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. A quorum was established.

Opening Devotions: Pastor shared a reading entitled *Why Do Christians Come to Church?* Prayers were offered for members in need.

Recording Secretary: The minutes of March 8, 2025, were approved as printed.

Financial Secretary: Report filed.

Treasurer: Reports filed. Still in the process of moving funds to South State Bank and establishing credit cards and automatic payments.

Pastor: Six new members completed the recent adult confirmation class; another 6-7 adults are waiting to transfer membership to Faith. Pastor's schedule includes vacation time the first part of May; district convention May 5-7; and Reserve Duty Thursdays and Fridays in June plus June 9-20. He shared an interesting item: he reviewed a church directory from 2010 and found that only 29 of the members listed are current members.

VP: No report.

President: No report.

Elders: Absent.

LWML: Six ladies attended the recent Spring Rally at Lakeside LC, Venice.

Altar Guild: Thirty Easter lilies have been ordered as well as palm branches. Eloise requested key fobs for members of the Guild to be able to prepare for services. The president will notify Dave to provide these.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Garden: Jean raised the possibility of creating a Memorial Garden. Pastor said that he had previously been told such an undertaking could take up to two years to complete and cost \$100,000. The first step would be to review county and state requirements. Jean will do some research on the requirements.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. followed by prayer.

Jean 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.

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.



Dave Benson is our Church Trustee and does an enormous amount of work around the church, moving tables, hanging banners, fixing vacuum cleaners, making arrangements for a vast amount of other work that must be done here at the church.

He is requesting that anyone noticing that there is a task to be done that you fill out a work request form that hangs on his office door so he has a paper copy to present if ever asked. Please don't just tell someone and hope it gets back to him or attempt to do it yourself. There is a process that he wants to follow. Thank you.





At the final meeting of the year, LWML ladies will have their Bible Study, Meeting/Guest Speaker 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 Friday, May 9, 2025,
at 10:00 am with refreshments served at 9:30 am

Following the meeting, Marjorie Weiss will share pictures and information of their experience to Pasadena to decorate the Lutheran Layman's League float for the Tournament of Roses Parade.

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)**



Faith Lutheran's GriefShare Sessions are on hold

GriefShare Program Faith Lutheran Church

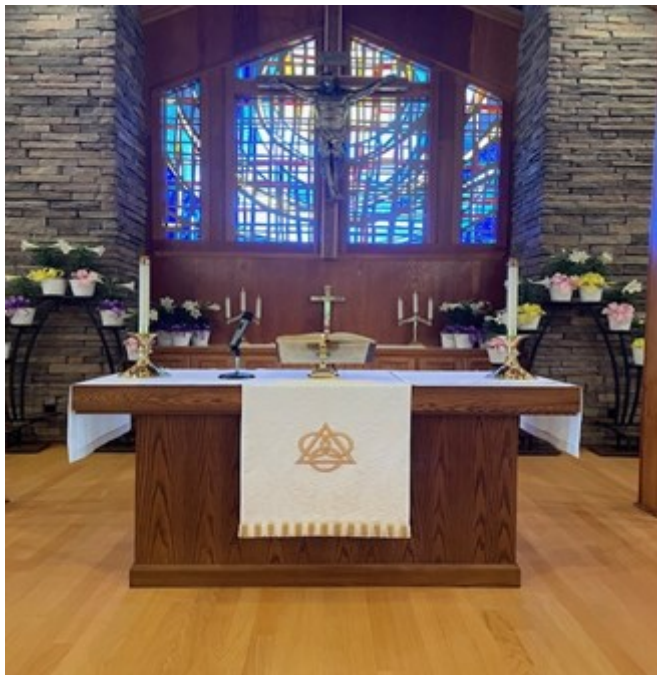
Many grieving people find that while they are beginning the task of healing, friends or family have already returned to their daily life routines. Too often people, including Christians, tend to suppress their grief. Instead, they need to allow themselves to learn to deal with their grief.

Facilitators at Faith have been helping these people work through their grieving.

CONFIDENTIALITY is very much a part of this program.

If you would like to be a lead facilitator or just 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.





Faith's Beautiful Easter Altar

We certainly give thanks to everyone who purchased one or more lilies for the Altar, and the Altar Guild for setting up the display.

What a glorious way to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday, 2025!



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

Thanks to snowbird Linda Wiedenmeyer, we have purchased over 70 toys for Christmas 2025 at great clearance sale prices. Now we're working on producing 30 or more juvenile lap robes, but we still need seamstresses to do simple straight sewing of squares at home. We will provide instruction every second and fourth Wednesday from 9-11:30 am.

Marjorie Weiss 941-757-7307

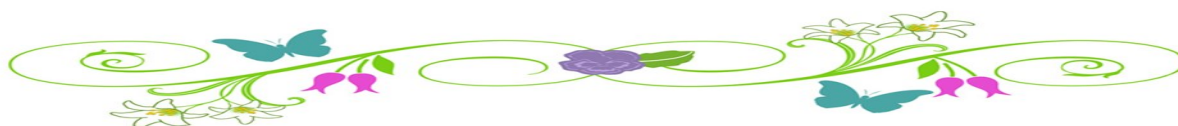


PLEASE NOTE: Faith uses the burgundy Attendance Book information as part of our requirement for LCMS, so please add all family names and encourage new attendees to fill in their names and addresses as we send letters to new visitors. And, **please** write legibly.

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 Genesis.



Pastor's Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 am. presents in depth discussions of the Book of Hebrews. 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.

**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 and prayer requests will be sent to you via email. Thank you!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3 Susan Hinrich
- 4 Sandra Piper
- 7 Rick Bartelt
- 9 Karen Hill
- 11 Robert Harvey
- 12 Nancy Bonadurer
- 14 Chuck Moore
- 15 Susan Heflin, Chris Melchior
- 17 Jeff Matson
- 18 Carl Schwarz
- 23 Brad Reay
- 26 Judy Shrader
- 30 Carol Priest
- 31 John Niemi



- 2 Norm and Rosanna Markel Bothun (6 years), Ken & Nancy Scheer (61 years)
- 3 Silas & Kate Pooch (3 years)
- 8 Jim & Barbara Pechtel (37 years)
- 15 David & Vanessa Benson (26 years) , Jack & Hope Conte (39 years)
- 22 Pastor Kenneth & Susan Hinrich (49 years)
- 26 Ken & Sandra Piper (29 years)
- 27 Louis & Janet Courtney (65 years)





Behind-the-scenes individuals 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.



Catechism

Adult Catechism classes continue to meet at 11:45 on Sundays following the 10:30 am Divine Service. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Pooch know.



This Month's Privileged Servants



Altar Guild

Sundays, 8:00 am

May 4 Martha Riedl
 May 11 Meta Green
 May 18 Sean Kons
 May 25 Martha Riedl

Sundays, 10:30 am.

May 4 Nancy Niemi
 May 11 Cindy Nuetzel
 May 18 Erin & Alec Carpp
 May 25 Nancy Niemi

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

May 7 Eloise Schwarz
 May 14 Karen Hill
 May 21 Robin Parkin
 May 28 Eloise Schwarz

Elders

Sundays, 8:00 am.

May 4 Tom Weiss
 May 11 Dennis Steinke
 May 18 Tom Weiss
 May 25 Dennis Steinke

Sundays, 10:30 am.

May 4 Jack Conte
 May 11 Caleb Pooch
 May 18 Jack Conte
 May 25 Dennis Steinke

Assistant

Caleb Pooch
 Alex Boettcher
 Caleb Pooch
 Alex Boettcher

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm.

May 7 Tony Bowen
 May 14 Tony Bowen
 May 21 Tony Bowen
 May 28 Tony Bowen

Assistant

Curt McCarty
 Jeff Sattanno
 Carl Schwarz
 Curt McCarty

Offering Counters

May 5 John Niemi, Carol Schreiber, Tom Barlow
 May 12 John Niemi, Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg
 May 19 Marilyn Howard, Nancy Kendall, Marti Katterhenry
 May 26 Larry Colton, Nancy Kendall