



# September

**take up the shield of faith** Ephesians 6:16

**September 2020 Newsletter**

## **From Pastor Nate . . . .**

Renowned pastor, John MacArthur, of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California initially acquiesced to California Gov. Gavin Newsom's mandate on March 19 banning indoor worship. MacArthur and his church leadership noted the importance of respecting the rightful authority of government stating, "Insofar as government authorities do not attempt to assert ecclesiastical authority or issue orders that forbid our obedience to God's law, their authority is to be obeyed whether we agree with their rulings or not."

On July 13 Governor Newsom announced that indoor worship services would be banned indefinitely for 30 counties "Until there is a vaccine or effective therapy, we will be mitigating the spread of COVID-19 for the long term." In response, MacArthur and the elder board of Grace Community Church have stated, "We cannot and will not acquiesce to a government-imposed moratorium on our weekly congregational worship or other regular corporate gatherings... We do not need the state's permission to serve and worship our Lord as He has commanded. Freedom of worship is a command of God, not a privilege granted by the state."

The Bible describes three institutions that are ordained by God: the Government, the Family and the Church. Each has its responsibilities, obligations and function. As Paul describes in Romans 13, the government establishes and maintains order, but is itself subject to the laws of God. In the book of Acts, Peter and the Apostles having been charged strictly not to preach in Jesus' name, tell the Sanhedrin that "we must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29) Our Founding Fathers understood that the government should not interfere in the affairs of the church. This is why they included "freedom of worship" as the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights.

The Church is the Body of Christ and Jesus said, "I will build my church and not even the gates of hell shall prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) As fellow believers and members of the Body of Christ we should all stand with Pastor John MacArthur and all those who stand on the authority of God's word. We need to stand against all those including governors who seek to prevail against Christ's Church. As Martin Luther said, "One with God is a majority."

Together in Faith!  
Pr. Nate Bjorge

**Faith's Core  
Values:**  
*Discipleship,  
Hospitality,  
Prayer,  
Service,  
Stewardship,  
Worship,  
and Unity*

## President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Life is a Highway" by Tom Cochrane  
Love's like a road that you travel on  
When there's one day here and the next day gone  
Sometimes you bend, sometimes you stand  
Sometimes you turn your back to the wind  
There's a world outside every darkened door  
Where blues won't haunt you anymore  
Where the brave are free and lovers soar  
Come ride with me to the distant shore  
We won't hesitate  
Break down the garden gate  
There's not much time left today

Life is a highway  
I wanna ride it all night long  
If you're going my way  
I wanna drive it all night long

Being a truck driver for 43 years, I've traveled many, many roads in all conditions and in all weather conditions. Spending the last 9 years as Little Falls Township road supervisor, I've traveled many, many roads and fixed many, many roads. Low maintenance roads, gravel roads, paved roads, highways.....AND .... Life is like a highway or life is really every kind of road. There are all kinds of roads that we travel: all kinds of challenges that we face; low maintenance roads that few travel and this road can be lonely and have low spots that can cause us to get stuck, gravel roads full of bumps and loose gravel, washboards, things that can shake us and cause us to lose control, and hopefully many smooth highways.

The word "highway" occurs quite often in the Bible. It describes roads that could be/ should be used for heavier traffic. Highway is a compound word which contains its historical meaning in the two words it joins. "Highway" comes from "high way" – a road that has been built up and raised above its surroundings. Rocks, trees, obstacles are moved out of the way.

Isaiah wrote: Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. Isaiah 62:10

The life road sure seems lonely and bumpy and out of control lately. Let's prepare the way! Let's build each other up, remove obstacles that stand in the way of our prayer life. Let's together raise up and rebuild the bumpy washboard some of us must travel.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3.

"If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one."

Let's build a highway!

George Sandy, Council President

## Congregational Life

We celebrated with our graduating seniors on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>. We had a "cupcake reception". The quilters presented each with a quilt. Another gift and flowers were given to each of them. God bless these young people; Zachary, Amber, Ashley, Nolan, Ann, Brady, and Elizabeth as they go on their way into the next phase of their lives.

We are looking forward to the fall "kick off" for Sunday School. More information will be in the weekly bulletin.

Remember there is a "suggestion" box in the narthex. Please place any comments and suggestions in this box. No need to sign your name unless you want to.

Our team is looking forward to resuming our monthly meetings. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Stay safe and stay well!

For the team,  
Bev Larsen

## Mission Statement

As Children of God, we are called to love, glorify and submit to the Living Christ, ministering to others by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. **Stand** firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6:16**

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## Youth & Family Team

We had a “feeding the multitude” experience earlier this month when we volunteered with Terebinth Refuge. Expecting to have a lot more hands to accomplish the things Terebinth Refuge was asking of us, I considered calling to cancel or reschedule. But instead of calling to cancel, I found myself calling to say we will show up and trusting God to work through our obedience. At the end of the night, the four volunteers who came, accomplished more than we or Terebinth Refuge’s staff had originally intended. It was like the “feeding the multitude” miracle found in all four Gospels, when one boy in the crowd offered two measly fish and five loafs of bread God turned it into enough to feed 5,000 ... In our humanness, the task seemed too great to accomplish, but trusting God to work through us, He multiplied our obedience as we showed up.

Other highlights of this summer have been Water Games, Float the Platte, Weekly Bonfires, Deep Dive Groups, and Car Wash for a Cause. A lot of fun was had at Water Games as we slipped and slid and threw water balloons to cool off. Later in the summer, we were blessed with another gorgeous day to gather for Float the Platte. Many families and youth enjoyed making memories during a longer than expected float and lunch that turned to dinner BBQ/pool party at Leibold’s.

Due to COVID, we adapted our weekly gathering to outdoor bonfires and small groups. A highlight for me and many students was the powerful student-led worships and strengthened relationships through Deep Dive Discipleship Groups. We have also adapted the ways we served this summer. First by serving locally, like at the Morrison County Food Shelf and Terebinth Refuge. But additionally, we were able to serve Hope at the BRICK House in the Quad Cities by raising money for the ministry through a car wash after church.

As the school year begins, the youth ministry year also resets. After a short “before school” break, we will begin youth group and confirmation Wednesday, September 16th from 6:45-8:15. Similar to last year, middle and high school students will meet for a short game together, before splitting for teaching time. High School students will also have time for worship and small groups, lead by some awesome adult leaders. As always, youth are invited to bring friends to join them on Wednesday nights or any other events.

To celebrate the ministry year, we hope you can join us at the Fall Kick-Off following worship- 1 PM on Sunday, September 13th. There will be a short informational meeting for families, with a bean-bag tournament, family paintball, face painting, food and more to follow!

Trusting in our Faithful God,  
Sara Stanton



Assembling a kennel for the new therapy dog at Terebinth Refuge Shelter in Waite Park.



Beautiful August day to Float the Platte!



SAFE! Sliding into first during slip-n-slide kickball at Water Games in July.

# August Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

*Present:* Kennard Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Howie Larsen, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, Renae Stueber, George Sandy, Dave ZumBerge and Pastor Nate

*Absent:* Justin Juelke, Tom Lippert and Karen Underhill

The meeting was called to order by George Sandy.

Opening prayer was led by Renae Stueber

Joel Hanson moved and Howie Larsen seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Dave ZumBerge moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to accept the June Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah Kalkbrenner also shared a suggestion box suggestion that we should stand during worship songs and requested the council members remind their teams that the deadline for September Newsletter articles is Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Nelson reported our total revenues are very good. We are about \$6,000 ahead of budget and with our expenses down we are doing well. Our total expenses so far this year are \$122,000 but we have budgeted for \$145,000 so far. Denny Myers moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

**Youth Director's Report:** Sara Stanton's report shared the success of their Deep Dive groups over the summer as well as some events including; volunteering at Terebinth Refuge, Car Wash for a cause which raised \$542 for Hope at the BRICK House in the Quad Cities and the Weekly Bonfires with student-led worship. Coming up they have the start of Youth Group and the Fall Ministry kick-off that they are doing with the Children's Team to kick off Sunday School and Youth Group/Confirmation. The Youth are also working on decorating the bleachers in the Youth room that the Hyatt family made for them.

The Youth Team and the Children's team plan to join together for the Fall Ministry Kick-off on September 13<sup>th</sup>. They would like to plan food but until we are closer to the date and know more about the rules required, the council felt we could not make a decision about serving food. So, the food discussion will be postponed until after the governor's re-evaluation of the mask and Covid-19 rules in early September.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Nate was gone Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Bill Bakewicz filled in.

He is able to do some visitations, although not at any nursing homes yet.

He helped with a burial service at Darling Cemetery.

Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> will be Kelly Trang's funeral here at Faith.

Pastor Nate brought up the Senior Lunches for discussion as well. It was decided we would wait to schedule any events like that until after the governor's re-evaluation of the mask and Covid-19 rules in early September.

## Old Business:

### Ministry Team Reports:

- Finance Team: Discussed the Parking Lot crack repair, fire inspection and Sara's insurance. There was also discussion about the fire extinguishers being more accessible.
- Children's Team: Annie Mathison is stepping down so the Children's Team is looking for more members. Sunday School will begin September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday School teachers have been finalized and they will be using the Faith Weavers curriculum. They want to set up online registration for the students through the Faith website.
- Mission & Outreach Team: They are currently seeking a coordinator for Operation Christmas Child. They need to find this person quickly so they can be trained before collection week preparations.

*Copier:* The copier fund is currently sitting at \$2,485. For now, we will keep running the current copier. If we get a new quote from MCSI Sarah will immediately send it to the council so they can make a decision on it.

## New Business:

*Mission Team Payment:* The mission team would like us to send funds to Pastor Dave Steffenson's church in Rochester. They are building a new building and we had some churches send us funds while we were building. Joel Hanson moved and Denny Myers seconded to approve the requested \$1,000 for Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester. Motion carried.

*Parking Lot Crack Quote:* The Finance Team got a quote for crack repair in our parking lot and they recommend we move forward with the project. The cost would be \$1,112.37. The quote is based on the township using the same company, which they are. Howie Larsen moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to move forward with the parking lot crack repair. Motion carried.

*Sara Stanton Health Insurance:* Sara got two quotes from UCare for her medical insurance. We have budgeted for \$1,344 for her insurance for half the year. The whole year will be \$2,688. The two quotes list the expenses at about \$3,291 annually regardless of which plan she chooses. The finance team recommends Sara can choose which of the two plans she wishes. Denny Myers moved and Cheryl Rioux seconded to allow Sara to choose the plan she wants. Motion carried. There is some concern about how we handle this tax-wise as well. Whether it's taxable and how we pay the premiums. We will do further research about this before we pay it.

Joel Hanson moved and Howie Larsen seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

## Attendance & Offering

August	2: 112	\$ 6,603
August	9: 98	\$ 5,292
August	16: 91	\$ 2,905
August	23: 96	\$ 3,415
August	30: 126	\$ 4,093