



October

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

October 2020 Newsletter

From Pastor Nate

In October 1347 twelve trading ships docked at the Sicilian port of Messina in Italy after a long journey through the Black Sea. Most of the ship's crew were dead or dying. Those who were still alive were overcome by fever and pain caused by swollen lymph glands called buboes that appeared as black boils that oozed blood and puss. They had carried the bubonic plague or Black Death from China to Europe and over the next 5 years over 25 million people died, over one third of the continent's population at that time.

Outbreaks of the Black Death would continue until the seventeenth century. The people of this time did not understand that this plague was caused by bacteria-infected fleas carried by rats and easily spread among humans. Life was difficult and death was common during this period. One half of all children died before 5 years of age. Because of the high infant mortality rate, parents had their children baptized shortly after their birth. Martin Luther's father took him to the priest to be baptized the day after his birth. Martin and Katie Luther lost two of their six children to death, Elizabeth at 8 months and Magdalene at 13 years of age. Their only consolation was found in the promises of the Church.

We are not compelled to contemplate death like the people did in the Middle Ages when death was at the very center of life. Perhaps COVID-19, though the death rate is very low, is causing some people to reflect on the reality that we are mortal and one day we will all walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Sadly for some it will end in a deep darkness (a black death), but for those of us who have the Lord as our Shepherd, we will walk through this valley as we pass from death to life. In the words of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, "Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life... He has passed from death to life." John 5:24

As Charles Spurgeon preached, "The shadow of a sword cannot kill; the shadow of death cannot destroy us." Where there is shadow there is also light. The light of Jesus Christ will shine upon us as He leads us into eternity. This is the message the Church offers to the world. This is the consolation we share when a loved one dies. So as in the words of Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not neglect to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing nearer." We should not fear the virus and we should not fear death because we have a Savior who has conquered death and promised everlasting life to those who believe in Him.

Contemplating his own death, Mozart wrote these words in 1787: Death, when we come to consider it closely, is the true goal of our existence... And I thank my God for graciously granting me the opportunity of learning that death is the key which unlocks the door to our true happiness." Our calling as followers of the Good Shepherd is to be in fellowship with one another. It is together that we are encouraged to walk in the light, to grow in our faith, and trust in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Together in Faith!
Pr. Nate Bjorge

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

President's Message

WHEN YOU ARE
GRATEFUL, FEAR
DISAPPEARS AND
ABUNDANCE
APPEARS

ANTHONY ROBBINS

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Faye and I have been peeling and peeling and peeling an abundance of apples. The fun part is also sharing this abundance with friends. Maybe the fun in sharing is because it will save us from more peeling. It is also comforting to see our pantry well-stocked. We complain about all the peeling but we are truly grateful for the abundance. While we were peeling, we were chatting (we shut off the TV, too depressing) about our day, week, Covid, uncertainty, fear of what Covid is doing to our economy and all of these apples. Oh look at this beauty! I said as I held up a near perfect

honeycrisp apple. The apples were powerful that day, their beauty took over our conversation and our counters and rolled over the talk of uncertainty and Covid.

Our church family, the wonderful fall kick-off of Sunday School, couldn't have been better. The abundance of hard working people educating our children, planning activities for our youth, planning fun activities for all ages made for a fun fall day. The abundance of great cooks making beyond delicious food was phenomenal! And the abundance of awesome food was beyond belief! The whole church council is beyond grateful for the abundance of prayerful, hard-working, giving, singing, cooking, planning, playing, sharing, people of Faith.

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Yours in Christ,
George Sandy

Congregational Life

My sister, Bonnie lives in California. She is quite far from the actual fires, however, she keeps her windows closed and when she steps outdoors she said it feels like she is walking into a smoldering fire because of the thick smoke. The atmosphere is all orange-colored and sometimes the sky is black like night! Thank God for our fresh clean Minnesota air!!

Our team met in September. We discussed how we could help with the Fall Kick-Off Event. This event was planned for the most part by the Children's and Youth teams. It was a very successful event with games, face painting, and delicious food provided by Wolbeck's Woodfire Pizza Truck, and Raquel's Kitchen's fry bread tacos! What a treat! God provided us with a beautiful sunny day. A very large crowd enjoyed fellowship and fun!

We will not meet on our regular October date, however we may have an "e-mail" meeting later to discuss the possibility of a Christmas Boutique in December. This may seem early to be thinking about Christmas, but the days fly by quickly, and we must be prepared. This will be brought to the church council in October.

Remember the "suggestion box" in the gathering space. We welcome any comments.

In this unsettling time of Covid, and riots, and unrest in our country, please keep praying for an end to the violence and illness that has spread throughout our great country.

As election day draws near, remember to get out and VOTE !

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

“There was no king like him (Josiah), who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might.” - 2 Kings 23:25

This was the theme verse for this year’s See You at the Pole prayer event. It connected to the theme of Return, Restore, Revive-- a very timely theme. According to 2 Kings 23:25, Josiah was distinct in the ways he returned to the Lord--with his heart, soul and might. Not half-heartedly still clinging to his old ways or lures of culture, but fully. The prayers of the students at this morning event were for not only peers and the nation to return to God, but also themselves. That they would return to their first love and strong faith they have experienced at camp, youth conferences, and mission trips. Let’s continue to echo these prayers of the students--for returning, restoration, and revival. On a similar note, it is so easy to get weighed down by the current events, but I’d also encourage you to press into the revival that the Lord is doing across our nation AND the world--don’t miss it!

Speaking of returning, we *returned* to Wednesday youth nights on Wednesday, September 16th. It was great to be with middle school and high school students for worship, games, studying scripture, encouragement, and prayer. We also kicked off all Fall Ministries on Sunday, September 13th through a combined effort of the Children, Youth & Family, and Congregation Life teams. All ages enjoyed Wolbeck’s Woodchuck Wood Fired Pizza and fry bread tacos from Raquel’s Kitchen. There was also some friendly competition in the Lucky Duck Beanbag Tournament in the backdrop of children’s laughter from face painting, sidewalk chalk, and bubbles.

We have **Romans and Christians** coming up on Friday, October 2nd from 8-10pm. This night game is for 6-12 grade students. Youth are encouraged to invite their friends to join them in running through the woods and “defending their faith.”

In Christ,
Sara Stanton



Children’s Ministry

Sunday School kick-off was a great success! Thank you to both of our food vendors, Raquel’s Kitchen and Wolbeck’s Woodchuck Woodfired Pizza, the food was delicious! Also, a big thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the day possible. God blessed us with a beautiful day!

Sunday school started September 20. We currently have 22 students in pre-K through sixth grade enrolled. We are currently looking for individuals who would like to join the children’s team. We are also looking for teachers and/or substitutes for Sunday School as well.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

Amanda Hyatt



September Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, September 17th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Howie Larsen, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Renae Stueber, Karen Underhill and Pastor Nate

Absent: Kennard Fellbaum, Tom Lippert and Dave ZumBerge

The meeting was called to order by George Sandy.

Opening prayer was led by Karen Underhill

Howie Larsen moved and Jim Nelson seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Cheryl Rioux moved and Justin Juelke seconded to accept the August Council Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Nelson reported our revenues continue to be strong with expenditures under budget. There is nothing unusual on the balance sheet this month. Justin Juelke moved and Karen Underhill seconded to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Youth Director's Report: Sara Stanton's report shared the success the Fall Ministry Kick-off. Everyone seemed to really enjoy the food and games. The first night of Confirmation and Youth Group was Wednesday, September 16th. There was 100% attendance for Confirmation and about 50% for the high school youth group which split into study groups. The Youth have decided to study Revelation.

Upcoming events include See You at the Pole on Wednesday, September 23, Romans and Christians on Friday, October 2nd and the Fields of Faith Event on Wednesday, October 7th.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate reported that more things are getting back to normal. Youth Group and Confirmation have started again and there are 16 students in Confirmation this year.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

Children's Team: Sunday School starts September 20th. Eighteen have signed up so far. They are still looking for one more Sunday School teacher. No decisions have been made about the Early Out Bashes yet.

Congregational Life Team: Congregational Life agreed to pay for the Fall Ministry kickoff, they will not have an October meeting

Mission & Outreach Team: Laura Fellbaum has agreed to coordinate Operation Christmas Child.

Farm Land Rental: We currently have a renter paying \$400 for the year to farm our land which is approximately 12 acres. Howie Larsen moved and Renae Stueber seconded to continue at the current rate for one year, with discussion to be brought up again next September. Motion carried.

Fire Extinguisher Accessibility: The Finance team, which is also in charge of Facility and Maintenance has been concerned about Fire Extinguisher accessibility. Most are in locked closets so they would like to hang those in accessible places and put signs on doors that are not locked with extinguishers. They will also make sure the garage fire extinguisher has been inspected because it was likely overlooked.

Posted Signs on Property: We have several No Trespassing and No Hunting signs on the wooded areas of the church property, however several of these signs have fallen down. Justin Juelke will hang them back up or replace them.

New Business:

Refrigerator: There was some question of the refrigerator working correctly prior to the Fall Ministry Kickoff. After a thorough cleaning and check, it seems to be working and we think it's possible the door was not closed all the way. For now, we will monitor it to make sure there aren't any further issues.

Howie Larsen moved and Karen Underhill seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place October 15th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

September	6:	94	\$5,878
September	13:	144	\$5,727
September	20:	129	\$2,767
September	27:	126	\$3,637