



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

March 2020 Newsletter

From Pastor Nate

Dating back to the fourth century the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays) were determined to be a time of contrition. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter in which Christians are called to examine themselves in light of God’s Word. St. Paul writes, “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.” (2 Corinthians 13:5) St. Paul reminds us that we all fall short of the glory of God, we all sin and it is sin that separates us from God. (Romans 3)

The prophet, Isaiah writes, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

God spoke through Isaiah saying that not only does our sin separate us from God but prevents Him from hearing us. But “the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear.” God has made a way for us to draw near to Him so that He will hear us. It is through recognizing our sin and confessing it before God. King David certainly understood this when he wrote, “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my sin to the Lord,’ and You forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to You. For Your love is unfailing and surrounds all those who trust in You. (Psalm 32)

Theologian, Soren Kierkegaard, claimed that, “Humanity’s highest achievement is to let God be able to help him.” To let God help us requires that we recognize our condition – we are sinful and God alone can make us clean. Kierkegaard also claimed that, “this is the very proof of Christianity’s being the highest religion, that none other has given such a profound and lofty expression of humanity’s significance – that s/he is a sinner. It is a consciousness that paganism lacks.”

Lent is a season in which we are reminded of our sinful state and our need to turn, or return to God and pray “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin... Create in me a clean heart, O God.” (Psalm 51) David also writes, “so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear him; As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103) God loves us so much that He sent His Son to take all of our sin upon Himself as He was nailed to the cross. As St. Paul writes, “We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1) We make our confession through prayer. We stay connected to the true Vine, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through prayer. Lent is a good season to become a people of prayer.

Together in Faith,
Pr. Nate Borge

Lent Schedule

Wednesdays,
March 4-April 1
6:00 p.m. Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lent Worship

Thursday, April 9:
Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
Worship

Friday, April 10:
Good Friday
12noon Good Friday
Community Worship
(at Faith Lutheran)

Sunday, April 12:
Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Easter Worship

President's Message

Friends of Faith,

IF YOU TEXT IN ALL CAPS, IT GETS THE ATTENTION OF THE READER. If you use exclamation points when writing, it shows you are excited! Or mad..... If you type with a bold font, the

reader knows you mean business. If you use a large font size, people think it's important. If you raise your voice, people tend to listen. As Christians we need to figure out ways to get attention, ways to get the good word out. WE need now more than ever to be

out loud Christians!

We have been talking about how to be more bold about being a Christian, being more capital letter, exclamation point, large font, out loud Christians. We both struggle with praying in a restaurant, asking a friend or neighbor to come to church, doing things out of our comfort zone. No time like the present, right?

I, Faye, asked the school staff to meet early one morning in the media center to pray for Jenny. Jenny is our school media specialist who after struggling for years came to need a heart transplant. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:20 More and more staff drifted down and quietly waited. Pretty soon there were over 50 people gathered. Then the superintendent walked in. My heart started beating rapidly. I thought now I'm going to need a new heart too! I wasn't sure how he would respond, but he joined the circle. I asked them all to join hands and then led them in prayer. It felt so good to be doing something that we all know works, and it did! After being on the transplant list for close to a month, Jenny's new heart became available and was given to her that night.

We are going to continue trying to live LOUD. Pray in a restaurant, pray at work, getting involved more at church.....Praying in a restaurant, you will garner attention when it should be the norm. It can't hurt to ask someone to join you in church. It might be the invitation that he/she had been hoping for/waiting for.

Go tell it on the mountain.

Yours in Christ!

George and Faye Sandy

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

Faith Lutheran Church

303 18th St. SE

Little Falls, MN 56345

Congregational Life

Our team welcomed our new Council Reps, Karen Underhill and Howie Larsen.

On February 18th our team hosted the senior citizen luncheon. Our speaker was Laurie Koski from Comfort Keepers. She gave a very informative talk on “home care”.

We are looking forward to March 22nd when the Adult/Teen challenge will be at Faith. They bring a very inspiring message and a great choir! We will be serving a brunch following the service for everyone. Please join us on the 22nd to support these amazing individuals.

We have mentioned a “suggestion box”. It is in the making. We will let you know when it is placed in the gathering space.

We welcome any suggestions, ideas, and comments. Talk to any of our team members who are: Becky Boody, Beckie Ottman, Lois Erickson, Julie Shelstad, Jody Cox, Bev Larsen, Karen Underhill and Howie Larsen.

Remember 40 days of prayer in this Lenten season. Prayer is powerful!!

Blessings,
Bev Larsen

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

Finance and Management Team

With the election of new council members, our team lost a couple of members. We would like to thank George Sandy and Howard Larsen for serving on the team. We would also like to welcome our new members coming on the team Lynn Kull and Chad Shelstad. Recently we purchased a new electric snow blower for cleaning up around the church entrance in hopes to help save Roger's back from shoveling. Just as a reminder to everyone, there has been a fund set up to help finance the new security system that was voted on at the annual meeting.

For the team,
Chris Scholl.



Saint Patrick's Day is March 17th.

We celebrate Saint Patrick's day to commemorate Saint Patrick, a 5th Century Romano-British Christian Missionary and Irish Bishop. The symbol is a Shamrock or three-leaf clover because he is credited with teaching the Trinity using a shamrock, showing people how there are three leaves in one shamrock like the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Youth & Family Team

As we enter into the season of Lent, I pray we as a youth group and body of Christ, enter into this season with longing and expectancy. Longing and expectancy driven by our desperate need for a sufficient Savior. This side of the rolled stone, we have the privilege of knowing Christ rose victoriously from the grave and we can joyously celebrate that, but as we smear our foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross, we are also reminded it was our sins which drove the nails into our Savior's hands who painfully suffered for us. Therefore, during this Lent season, I pray we would prepare our hearts so we can rejoice more fully in what Jesus accomplished.

In youth group, we recently finished a series titled "The Truth about Sin," discovering "Godly sorrow" for our brokenness. This flows into our next series which focuses on Jesus, the sufficient payment for our sins. "In His Own Words" looks at how Jesus describes himself with four of his "I Am" statements. 6th-12th grade students will have the opportunity to attend either Wednesday Lent Worship or a combined youth group, both from 7-8 PM. At the Soup Suppers before Lent Worship, youth will be serving and cleaning up with a free-will offering going toward the summer youth trips.

This past month Faith hosted a Better Together Event: A Night About Human Trafficking. This event was informative, as Terebinth Refuge's executive director, Cece Trelouw, and survivor advocate/education coordinator, Eleana Lukes, shared about the dark realities of human trafficking in our region. Additionally, this event infused hope, as we ended the evening with worship and prayer to our God who loves to rescue and stands in victory.

Faith, Family and (ice) Fishing was Sunday, February 9th from 12-5 at Platte Lake near Hillman. There were about 25 participants and while fishing wasn't the most successful, we had a great afternoon. Who knew great fellowship could happen on a frozen lake?!

Upcoming youth events in March include Tubing at Camp Ripley and the Middle School Lock-In. Families and friends of all ages are invited to come tubing at Camp Ripley Sunday, March 8th 12:30-4PM. A carpool will leave the church at 12:15. The Middle School Lock-In will be held Friday, March 27 from 8pm to Saturday, March 28 8am. The event is open to confirmation students and their friends, registration is required. Our prayer for this event is that it would be an opportunity for outreach and deepened relationships with the Lord and friends through worship and other fun activities.

May you experience the God's grace this season,
Sara Stanton



February Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, February 20th, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Howie Larsen, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Renae Stueber, Karen Underhill and Pastor Nate
Absent: Kennard Fellbaum, Tom Lippert, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy and Dave ZumBerge

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen
Opening prayer led by Pastor Nate

Jim Nelson moved and Justin Juelke seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Howie Larsen introduced the new members to the council: George Sandy; returning for his second term, Renae Stueber, Tom Lippert and Karen Underhill.

Secretary's Report: Justin Juelke moved and Denny Myers seconded to accept the January Council Minutes, Annual Meeting minutes and Council Organizational Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Nelson shared the January Financial Reports. As we are now using IconCMO, the reports are a little different. Total income for the month is about \$24,000 and the remaining balance at the end of the month is \$3,203. Jim also covered how the report shows the actual vs. budgeted amounts and how this will help us read our reports in the future to see how we are lining up with our budgeted expenses and income as we move through the year. On the Balance Sheet we compared the total restricted funds to the available working funds which shows us that we have started using our restricted funds for daily operations. In general, if we add a new fund and ask people to contribute to it, we reduce our general fund. This is something the council needs to be aware of in the future. Justin Juelke moved and Karen Underhill seconded to accept the January Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Joel Hanson moved and Howie Larsen seconded to have Justin Juelke look into a discount from our insurance company due to the security cameras we have installed. Motion carried.

Youth Director's Report: Sara Stanton reported on the winter retreat which had 7 students and 3 adult leaders attending. The Family Ice Fishing event had about 25 people and the human trafficking event was also a success.

Coming up there is the Snow Tubing event on March 8th and another Early-out bash. The Youth is also continuing with the Food Shelf Volunteering on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate reminded the council that Ash Wednesday will be February 26th. The Lent theme this year will be 40-days of Prayer. The Youth will help with the soup suppers, which begin March 4th, as a fundraiser to help with the cost of their summer trips. Then there will be a combined Youth Group with Confirmation students and Youth Group students encouraged to either attend worship or the combined Youth Group.

March 22nd Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge will be here again and the Men's Bible study will be helping with the brunch. Dorothy Ososki's funeral was Monday, February 17th.

Sunday, February 23rd will be the last Sunday in the Adult education series "The Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel and the following Sunday they will start the Lee Strobel series on Easter.

This year is Faith's turn to host the Community Good Friday worship and Nate will discuss it with the Ministerial group when they meet next.

Work continues on our new website and Nate will be meeting with Lynn Kull to finalize some details so we can hopefully have it up and running soon.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

Children's Team: They had tried a new curriculum called Kids Own Worship Now but have decided to go back to Faith Weavers. The Early-Out Bash on February 5th had 12 students attending. The next Early-Out Bash is scheduled for March 11th.

Congregational Life Team: They hosted the Senior Lunch on the 18th and are preparing for the Teen Challenge Brunch.

Mission Team: Linda Collins has joined the team.

Church Directory: Work will begin in the spring or summer with taking photos and getting things updated with the goal of the new photo directory being ready by fall.

New Business:

Update on Continuation of 18th Avenue: A request was made by the city of Little Falls for federal funding for 2024 to continue 18th Avenue south, filling in the drainage ditch to join it up with the road to the south. This would allow us to build another access point to our parking lot on the west side. The federal funding was denied at this time but the city will request it again next year for funding in 2025 and they believe they will receive the funding at that time.

Lifeline Screening: Pastor Nate has received requests for us to host a Lifeline Screening event. This is a health screening that allows people an in-depth look at problem areas they may have with their health. The council approved this idea so Pastor Nate will set up the date.

Facility Keys: The Key log was discussed as well as keys to the building offered to the council members. It was recommended that the security team look into who has keys so it can be more regulated. Denny Myers will take a copy of the key log and look into who has keys and who may need them.

Father-Daughter Ball Update: Justin Juelke reported that the preparations for the Father-Daughter ball are going well. Ticket sales are finished up with about 120 tickets sold.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place March 19th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

February	2:	160	\$ 7,804
February	9:	163	\$ 3,782
February	16:	150	\$ 4,602
February	23:	168	\$ 3,565