



November

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

November 2021 Newsletter

From Pastor Nate

We are all familiar with the story of the first Thanksgiving celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621. And we may know that it was in the midst of the Civil War in 1863 that Thanksgiving was established as a National holiday under President Lincoln to be celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of November. However, the first proclamation issued by the United States as a country came in 1777 during the Revolutionary War when the Continental Congress set aside December 18 as a day for “solemn thanksgiving and praise.”

Samuel Adams known as the “Father of the Revolution” penned the proclamation. Below is an excerpt: (I have bolded all of the references to God throughout this proclamation.)

FORASMUCH as it is the indispensable Duty of all Men to adore the superintending Providence of **Almighty God**; to acknowledge with Gratitude their Obligation to **him for Benefits** received, and to implore such farther Blessings as they stand in Need of: And it having pleased **him in his abundant Mercy**, not only to continue to us the innumerable Bounties of **his common Providence**; but also to smile upon us in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, for the Defense and Establishment of our unalienable Rights and Liberties;

It is therefore recommended to the legislative or executive Powers of these UNITED STATES to set apart THURSDAY, the eighteenth Day of December next, for SOLEMN THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: That at one Time and with one Voice, the good People may express the grateful Feelings of their Hearts, and consecrate themselves to the Service of their **Divine Benefactor**; and that, together with their sincere Acknowledgments and Offerings, they may join the penitent Confession of their manifold Sins, whereby they had forfeited every Favor; and their humble and earnest Supplication that it may **please GOD through the Merits of JESUS CHRIST**, mercifully to forgive and blot them out of Remembrance;

That it may **please him**, to prosper the Trade and Manufactures of the People, and the Labor of the Husbandman, that our Land may yield its Increase: To take Schools and Seminaries of Education, so necessary for cultivating the Principles of true Liberty, Virtue and Piety, **under his nurturing Hand**; and to **prosper the Means of Religion, for the promotion and enlargement of that Kingdom, which consisteth “in Righteousness, Peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.”**

Samuel Adam’s parents had hoped that he would become a clergyman, but it seems obvious that God used Adams for the purpose of establishing this great Nation. Samuel’s second cousin, President John Adams, also understood the necessity of the Christian faith in establishing and holding this Nation together. He wrote on July 4, 1821, “The highest glory of the American Revolution was this: it connected in one indissoluble bond the principles of civil government with the principles of Christianity.” He also stated, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

As people of faith and citizens of this great Nation it is our duty to continue to acknowledge with gratitude the abundant mercy and blessings we receive from God; to join the penitent confession of our manifold sins; and to prosper the means of religion – in other words promote the Christian faith. Beginning with the Pilgrims, the Thanksgiving holyday has never been about merely being thankful, it has always been about giving thanks to God!

Together in Faith!
Pr. Nate Borge



November 7

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

President's Message

Greetings Family of Faith,

I'm thinking about new things today.

As I travel back and forth from St. Cloud every day I enjoy the color and the crops coming in. Those images always remind me of God's magnificence. Anyone who thinks that these changes in the seasons are nothing but nature at work are not in tune with the Lord at work.

The Lord has been at work in our Faith Congregation as well. On 24 October we introduced 16 new members. Welcome all of you! We look forward to getting to know you better and have you join in all the events and activities we have here. By the way, we should always be more open to greeting people we have not seen before or others we have not introduced ourselves to.

One of the activities I think would be great is a Youth Band. We have so many young people with musical talent – vocal and instrumental both. We would be remiss if we did not only include, but encourage their participation in our services.

We also encourage all of you to join in Bible study opportunities. I'm not good at memorizing Bible verses but studying God's word with others on a small scale is amazingly insightful. It brings familiar verses into new light and understanding.

By the time you read this article our confirmation service will be over.

Congratulations to all the confirmands and their parents. A new step in their faith journey has begun. Our prayers and encouragement go with them.

We will soon be into the Thanksgiving season. We should always be thankful for ALL the blessings God has given us but this season is the time to focus on every one of them. Thank You Lord.

We are going into the last weeks of preparing a new photo directory. It is important that all of you have your pictures taken ASAP. The new program for the directory will be much better than the old one – but – it requires that every entry for names, addresses, and phone numbers be accompanied by a photo. No photo, no other entry. If you have no photo your name will not be part of our directory. Please, stop in the church office after service on Sunday, or any time during the week.

New things going on and new things to think about. Makes life more fun, doesn't it?

In love and thankfulness for all of you,

Howie



Children's Team

In attendance: Heidi Larsen, Pat & Renae Stueber, Amanda Hyatt.

Other Members: Tom Lippert, Denny Myers, Becky Fellbaum

We chose a Christmas program for pre-k-12th grade to participate in. The program will be performed December 12th, 2021. If anyone youth is interested in participating & adults willing to help with props or costumes, please call/text Amanda Hyatt at 320-630-2887 or reach out to any member of the Children's Team. Thank you.

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

We are currently in a series with our high school youth titled, "Me and the Church." The aim of this series is to emphasize to our students that they are part of the church body and they play a vital role in living out God's mission as the church--even as teenagers. As I have reflected on this series, I have appreciated the value our congregation puts on our teenagers. It brings me great joy to see their gifts being recognized and displayed and adults coming alongside them to help them discover the gifts they can offer the body. As a youth group, we have been memorizing 1 Corinthians 12:27 which says, "You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

No Wednesday night is "normal" in youth ministry, but we are breaking the rhythm for most Wednesday nights in November for the high schoolers (confirmation will remain the same). Kicking off November on Wednesday the 3rd, is the First Wednesday worship and prayer night. This is an opportunity for youth and their friends to encounter Jesus. A meal will be served for anyone, starting at 6:30.

Wednesday, November 10th youth have the opportunity to bring the Gospel to the nations through the Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing event. During our time together, we will go shopping and pack shoeboxes. Our goal is to exceed the 125 boxes we have packed in previous years. Through donated items provided by Faith Comforters and congregation member's allocating their Thrivent Grants for this event, youth have the opportunity to bring in their own financial offerings to be matched up to \$500.

Finally, Wednesday, November 17th we will celebrate community through small group "friendsgiving" at locations outside of the church building. Keep tuned from the small group leaders on where your high schooler will be meeting.

Additionally, confirmation students can look forward to the Middle School Late Nighter, Friday, November 19 6:30 PM- Saturday, November 20th 8AM. This overnighter will consist of an EPIC Nerf Battle, worship, deep connections (and of course food). Friends are invited and all are encouraged to register by 11/14 online through the church's website.

For God's glory,
Sara Stanton



Bella White and Sara recently enjoyed a day off of school by baking cupcakes together. The result: Confirmation class got a tasty treat the following Wednesday.

Mission & Outreach Team

Local ministries--Hands of Hope Resource and Boys & Girls Club of Morrison County—as well as St. Paul Seminary were among the entities receiving Faith Lutheran’s support approved at the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team’s October meeting. Each ministry received a \$500 gift from Faith. In addition to these donations, Faith continues to provide monthly support for the Nicaragua Mission and the Sunbeam Boys Home in Jamaica (\$200/month each).

In addition to the most recent donations, Faith is preparing for Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Collection week is Nov. 15-22. Volunteers are needed to work the various shifts during collection week. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex. Also, anyone who has affiliations with sports teams, youth groups or other organizations that might be interested in getting involved in OCC (packing shoeboxes, etc.) is invited to pass along the names to Pat Rioux (pfrioux@outlook.com) so they can be contacted to determine the level of interest in getting involved.

New members are still needed for the Faith Lutheran Mission & Outreach Team with three-year terms starting in January. In addition, a new M & O team recording secretary is needed to replace Linda Lippert who has served the maximum six consecutive years and will be rotating off the team. According to church bylaws, ministry teams can have between five and seven members. The M & O team currently has six members—Linda Lippert, Maureen Miller, Laura Fellbaum, Linda Collins, Gail Meyer and Pat Rioux. Ex-officio members include Pastor Nate and council representatives—George Sandy and Kennard Fellbaum. In addition to the replacement for Linda Lippert, the M & O team also needs to select a new chair. Pat Rioux has exceeded the two-year maximum that a person can serve as team chairperson. The team’s purpose is to oversee the congregation’s mission and outreach activities, including making donations to various ministries. The team receives 10% of all congregational donations to fund mission and outreach activities. For more information about the Mission & Outreach Team, please contact any team member (listed above) or the pastor.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

Boxes now available!
Collection will be November 15-22.



Congregational Life



Howie and I have been spending some “evening time” on our deck when weather permits. We always see the first evening star above the tree tops and watch the sun go down in vibrant colors. It is such a relaxing time whether we have had a very busy or trying day or an ordinary day, it is good to spend this quiet time together. Try it sometime, it is good !!

October has been busy for Faith. We welcomed new members on the 24th. May God bless them and we thank them for coming forth to join in our mission to bring glory to God in the work that is before us.

Confirmation Sunday is October 31st. There will be 6 young people being confirmed. We will have a cake reception for them. God bless them always. It seems early to be thinking about a Christmas Boutique, but it is coming! It is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. Please consider donating craft items, theme baskets, and baked goods to make this another success!

Stay well and safe,

For the team,

Bev Larsen

October Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, October 21st, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Judy Berger, Joel Hanson, Howie Larsen, Tom Lippert, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Karen Underhill and Pastor Nate

Absent: Kennard Fellbaum, Justin Juelke and Renae Stueber

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen and opening prayer led by Jim Nelson.

Secretary's Report: George Sandy moved and Karen Underhill seconded to accept the September Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah also shared a suggestion from the suggestion box.

Treasurer's Report: Total revenues look good, we are currently \$7000 ahead of budget. We are very strong on the year-to-date expenses as well, being \$9000 under budget. Last quarter the expenses do generally go up though. Tom Lippert moved and Denny Myers seconded to accept the September Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried. Jim also shared that all the Ministry Teams have received their budget sheets so they can work on their budgets for 2022.

Youth Director's Report: Sara Stanton's report shared information about First Wednesday, The Fall Ministry Kickoff, See You at the Pole and Fields of Faith as well as looking forward to the Family Fall Festival, Operation Christmas Child which the Youth will participate in by packing boxes, and the Middle School Late Nighter.

Sara also shared her concerns about lack of participation in some areas and would like to get some feedback, she suggested a survey be put together. After discussion the council felt a focus group would be more beneficial to communication back and forth. Denny Myers moved and Judy Berger seconded the proposal of putting together a focus group with 6-8 parents of children and youth to discuss events and their participation or lack thereof. Joel Hanson agreed to help with this focus group as well. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate asked the council to approve the new members who will be joining this Sunday, October 24th: Paladin Meyer and Judy "Ziggi" Meyer-Thompson, Karen Moen, Ruiz Munoz and his son RJ, Erik and Heather Olsen and their children; Chase, Cayden, Chloe, Claire and Cooper and Eric and Sarah Schlangen and their children; Leisel, Colin and Gretchen. The council approved all new members.

The following Sunday, October 31st we will have six confirmands.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

Children's Team: The Christmas program has been chosen and will be December 12th.

Congregational Life Team: Cake and flowers will be provided for both New Member Sunday and Confirmation.

Finance & Management Team: Budgets were discussed.

Mission & Outreach Team: Several budgeted payments were sent. Operation Christmas Child is coming up.

Worship & Prayer Team: Next meeting is scheduled for November 6th.

Youth & Family Team: Sara Stanton would like to have a sign made for the hallway pointing to the Youth room and Sunday School rooms. Judy Berger moved and Karen Underhill seconded to approve the sign. Motion carried.

Photo Directory: Sarah Kalkbrenner shared what we have for the directory so far. While we are making progress, we are far from finished.

Finance Team Recommendation: Funds from the Lent Soup Suppers had been set aside for the mortgage. The finance team is currently recommending that the \$1341 set aside be sent with our December Principal payment toward the mortgage. George Sandy moved and Karen Underhill seconded to approve this payment. Motion carried.

New Business:

Christmas Boutique: The Congregational Life Team would like to schedule the Christmas Boutique sale for Saturday, December 4th. Judy Berger moved and Karen Underhill seconded to schedule the boutique sale for Saturday, December 4th. Motion carried.

Nominating Team: It's time to begin thinking about council elections. Kennard Fellbaum and Justin Juelke will be ending their second term. Howie Larsen and Jim Nelson will be ending their first term. The council decided to postpone putting together a formal nominating team until next month's meeting.

Suggestion Box: When suggestions are left in the box without a name, we are unable to follow up with people. The council recommends a sign on the suggestion box: please sign so we can respond to you.

Joel Hanson moved and Tom Lippert seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place November 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

October	3:	178	\$ 7,673
October	10:	153	\$ 3,591
October	24:	147	\$ 3,343
October	31:		\$