



April
2016
Newsletter

Take Note...

Pastor Nate has a new email!
He can now be reached at;
pastornatebjorge@gmail.com

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate

When Hope Seems Lost

*I'm tired, I'm worn. My heart is heavy. From the work it takes to keep on breathing
I've made mistakes. I've let my hope fail. My soul feels crushed. By the weight of this world.*

These are not my words but these are the thoughts that many of us have shared at times. Life can weigh us down and cause us to feel helpless. We may think that because we believe in Jesus Christ, because we attend church, we should not be susceptible to having our spirits being weighed down, our hearts being broken, to feeling that God is not present or that He does not care. But this is not what God's word teaches us. "We do not wrestle against merely flesh and blood but against spiritual forces of evil." Satan wants to crush us and then tempt us to blame God or at least accuse God of not caring so that we will turn from the Only One who can heal us, restore us, and make us whole.

God does allow us to experience the consequences of our mistakes. God does not prevent us from experiencing the pain and suffering that life can bring. "For He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust." (Matthew 6:45) These moments can lead us to a feeling of helplessness. And yet it is our helplessness that can finally lead us to the One who has compassion and through Whom we can find hope.

According to Ole Hallesby, helplessness is one of God's greatest gifts. "For it is only when we are helpless that we open our hearts to Jesus and let Him help us in our distress, according to His grace and mercy." In Mark's Gospel, we have the story of the father who cried out in helplessness and who had nowhere else to turn when his son was convulsing and foaming at the mouth. Jesus' disciples had failed to heal his son. The father recognized that his faith was weak when he exclaimed to Jesus, "I believe, help my unbelief." (Mark 9:24) But in his helplessness he had faith enough to turn to the One who could heal his son. This story is similar to all of the Gospel stories of those who turned to Jesus in their helplessness to be healed and to find hope.

The words I quoted above and below are from the song, *Worn*, by the Christian Band, *Tenth Avenue North*:

*And I know that you can give me rest. So I cry out with all that I have left
Let me see redemption win. Let me know the struggle ends.
That you can mend a heart that's frail and torn. I want to know a song can rise
From the ashes of a broken life. And all that's dead inside can be reborn.
'Cause I'm worn*

Turn to Jesus, that "you may receive mercy and find grace to help you in your time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

Together in Christ!
Pastor Nate Bjorge

**Check out
our Upcoming
Events on page 4**

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members of Faith,

Another month gone! Where does the time fly to? Your council has been busy talking about long-term goals and how to best gather and sift through the many great visions the Faith Family has for the blessings God has given us. Please help us out by connecting with Council or Congregational team members to share your vision(s) with them. Be aware that the Council will have to prioritize the goals to fit Faith's financial situation. Pray for wisdom and God's guidance that his will be done here at Faith.

One of the issues that has arisen has been the Columbarium. Last fall the Columbarium committee reported to the council that they had 15 people commit to financially supporting the Columbarium. The last report I received showed that 18 vaults needed to be paid for in order to erect the Columbarium as quoted last fall. So far it has been reported to the council that only two vaults have been sold. The Columbarium committee would like permission to pour footings this spring. The council has stated in the past and continues to hold the opinion that the Columbarium construction must be financially self-supporting. The Council is of the opinion that until there is sufficient funding in place to complete the project, the construction should not be started. If you are interested in purchasing a vault in the Columbarium you need to talk to Al Bauman or one of the other committee members ASAP.

Please pray for wisdom and guidance for us that His will be done.

For His team,
Tom Lippert

Mission & Outreach Team

Paint-A-Thon Leadership Needed

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team would like to continue the Faith Lutheran tradition of sponsoring a Paint-A-Thon, but needs a chairperson to coordinate the effort. The Paint-A-Thon will be held Saturday, August 6. Anyone willing to serve as chair or who would like to participate on a Paint-A-Thon team is invited to contact any of the Mission & Outreach team members.

Other Mission & Outreach Team News

As a result of Faith Lutheran Church Council action, unspent mission-designated funds from 2015 were transferred back to the Mission & Outreach Team. The team continues to explore local, regional, national and international missions to support. Church members who have suggestions as to specific missions to support are asked to share those ideas with team members. The idea of providing an annual gift to Teen Challenge was suggested, which was generally supported by team members, although no formal action or dollar amount was approved at the March team meeting. Teen Challenge is planning to return to Faith Lutheran at the May 15 worship service. A donation to the organization will likely be approved at the April meeting.

The final Jamaica mission team financial report was presented and a total of \$30,840 was raised (both individual and church donations and the amount spent totaled \$25,338, leaving a balance of \$5,146.72. It was suggested that the remaining funds may be used for the next trip, although the individuals who participated in this year's mission trip will have the final say. Again, these funds were raised and collected by this year's participants. The only church funds from the 2015 budget were Mission & Outreach Team funds for the purchase of materials used in the various construction/maintenance projects performed on the trip.

Funds from the Mission and Outreach team are being used to support Lutheran World Relief's "backpack initiative." A total of \$83 was earmarked for the program, \$55 for backpacks and \$28 for postage.

Congregation members are asked to please continue to pray for the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team as we seek to fill out our team and that we may be an inspiration to personal ministry within the church and as witnesses to Christ's ministry in the community.

News from the Congregational Life Committee

March 2016 Meeting

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 *“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.”*

It is evident to most observant Christians that our world is becoming increasingly secularized and less religious. This is especially true in nations where science and technology seem to be worshipped by the masses. This is not to say that technology is inherently evil, but such dependence upon what man can do diverts our attention from the Lord of the universe, who can do all things and who alone deserves our worship.

Think for a moment about some of the more common customs associated with Easter. Do these practices have anything to do with the resurrection of Christ? The origins of some of these customs can be real eye-openers for many. Consequently, a lot of people associate Easter with things that have absolutely nothing to do with Biblical Christianity. Of course, the real message of Easter is, *“The Lord is risen indeed!”* (Luke 24:34). Everything the church has to say to the world stands or falls on the resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection, Easter would be a big lie, our faith would be worthless, and Jesus’ death would have accomplished nothing. So if we attend an Easter service but remain unchanged for the rest of the year, we’ve missed the purpose of the resurrection. Each day is an opportunity to let the living Christ impact our character, conduct, and conversation as we *“put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the one who created him”* (Col.3:10). In essence, we are displaying God’s nature with a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love.

By the time that you read this article, we have celebrated the season of Lent and Easter Sunday. I want to personally thank everyone who made this season of the year so meaningful and beneficial to our Christian growth. Thank you to the many, many of you who furnished soup and other food items for our soup suppers. It was all delicious. Thank you to those that volunteered on these evenings, serving the meal, setting up, working in the dish washing room and just by your presence at these gatherings. I want to especially thank Pastor Nate and the Confirmation class for helping us to focus on the true meaning of this season. You all make a big difference to our Family of Faith.

Our Easter celebration is one that you never want to miss. The breakfast is always so special. Thank you to the many men that came early to cook for us. Thank you to all those that brought food, helped serve, worked in the dish washing room or participated in any way. Our Easter worship service truly did bring praise to our Risen Savior. Thank you to Pastor Nate, our entire worship team, all the young people who helped us worship in music and by playing their instruments to praise God. Every one of you is appreciated. Thank you for attending and worshiping God with us.

April brings new challenges for us. We will be hosting our church Roadside Clean Up on April 12. We also will be hosting a New Member Sunday, consider becoming a part of our Faith Family. Speak to Pastor Nate about this. April 30th will be our spring Garage/Bake sale. Be thinking about how you can participate in this special event. We need you **ALL** to donate items for the sale, bake goods for the bake sale portion and volunteer in preparation and the day of the sale. Just remember that 10% of our garage sale income goes to Missions. The remains will be going to help pay down the debt on our church water/sewer assessments.

Until next month, God bless you all for your faithfulness in serving God at Faith Lutheran.

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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Children's Team Meeting Notes

March 9, 2016

Members present: Leanne Wolbeck, Kennard Fellbaum, Annie Mathison

Leanne talked with Joetta from Alliance Church and Alliance was willing to host VBS again this year, the group decided this would be fine and Faith will continue to offer support as needed. We will await dates and a theme from Alliance; Leanne was unable to make the meeting due to her schedule, but Alliance was open to ideas for the theme.

Leanne and Annie's kids will get together to prep the Easter eggs for the hunt and we are hoping to have the high school students hide them before/during service.

The date has been set for the church picnic as well as the last day of Sunday School, May 15, 2016. Ideas will be put together during the next meeting for the picnic and recognition items for our teachers.

Leanne will attempt to get in touch with the people that brought in dresses for the Father/Daughter Ball that were not used.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Thanks,
Annie Mathison

Attendance & Offering

March	6:	206	\$ 6,220
March	13:	178	\$ 3,261
March	20:	190	\$ 4,281
March	27:	316	\$ 6,022

Faith annual Garage Sale to be held April 30

Faith Lutheran Church will host its annual garage sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.



The event will include baked goods and treasures of all kinds. The event will be held

at Faith Lutheran and 10% of all proceeds from the sale will be used to support missions. For more information, please contact Pat Fernelius or other members of the Congregational Life Ministry Team.

Roller Skating on Sunday, April 17 from 1-4 p.m. at the Skatin' Place in St. Cloud. Faith will cover the admission (including roller skates). Bring your own In-line skates or rent them for \$2 extra. Questions, please contact Amber Rausch at 320/360-5804.



Roadside clean-up

Faith's Roadside cleanup will be Tuesday, April 12 at 5 p.m.

We will meet at Lyle and Cathy Frerichs' (11478 Hwy 115). After completing our three miles of Highway 115 by Camp Ripley, there will be food and beverages available at Frerichs' home. You are invited to bring a side dish to share.

Columbarium Deadline

Decision to proceed with columbarium needs financial commitments from 18 couples

The deadline to proceed (or discontinue) efforts to construct a columbarium on Faith Lutheran Church property has been set for May 31, 2016. Anyone interested in purchasing a niche in the columbarium must pay the \$1,200 per couple fee by the May 31 deadline. A total of 18 couples committed to the project are needed in order to proceed. The cost for a niche is two to three times less than standard costs for burial at a cemetery.

Questions about the columbarium can be directed to Al Bauman. No church funds have been budgeted for the columbarium so financial commitments from 18 couples must be received by May 31.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. March 17, 2016

Present: Julie Bassett, Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Justin Juelke, Pr. Nate, Jason Leibold, Tracy Marcus, Kennard Fellbaum, Tom Lippert, Pat Rioux, Randy Wolbeck, Dave ZumBerge
Absent: Mark Whittington

The Meeting opened with prayer led by Pr. Nate. Dave ZumBerge moved and Justin Juelke seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bible Camperships -\$2,000 budget - Line item: Campership. Randy Wolbeck moved and Jason Leibold seconded a motion to pay for one campership per child per year - campership being 1/2 the cost of the camp(s) attending, with a cap of \$150 regardless of # of camps attending in one year. Cheryl Zarns moved and Pat Rioux seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday - 7 p.m.

Good Friday - 12 noon Community Service at Grace Covenant

Prayer Service - 2 p.m.

Prayer Vigil - 3 p.m. Friday to 3 a.m. Saturday

Easter Sunday - breakfast at 8 a.m., church at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor will send out guiding principles/objectives for 5-10 year visionary goals for teams - to include 1-3 goals each for 5 years and 10 years. Goal: teams to have goals/objectives ready for council meeting on April 21st.

Old Business: Jason Leibold presented estimates for additional parking lot lighting, motion light at entrance and also outlet strips on divider posts under kitchen cabinets.

note: security update w/o hooking to notification costs more - \$1664.99 versus \$1659.99.

Jason Leibold moved and Pat Rioux seconded motion to install additional outlets in kitchen with funds to come from the Kitchen Fund for \$645. Motion passed.

Jason Leibold moved and Randy Wolbeck seconded the motion to accept the proposal from Central Minnesota Electric to modify the security lighting with funds of \$850 to come from the General Fund. Motion passed. Note: Noel Guerard pointed out this motion will increase our assets.

Note: Security system tabled indefinitely.

Tom Lippert is checking with church secretary for list of members of each team w/ phone numbers and email addresses. Property inventory/tagging will happen with bar codes assigned to items and data stored in an excel file on a thumb drive that will be stored in the church's safe deposit box at an estimated cost of \$200.

Columbarium update: Al Bauman will be given one last opportunity to ask for the 16 additional needed commitments to move forward with pouring of concrete pad. Pat Rioux will also write -up something in this regard for the newsletter. (Currently have 2 of the 18 needed commitments)

5 and 10 year visionary goals for Faith Lutheran - see under Pastor's Report.

New Business:

Facility & Maintenance team - quote is needed to replace secretary's window into entryway, likely on hold for now as weather is warming up.

Facility & Maintenance team - Jason Leibold wishes to donate 1x6 piece of oak to make bumper rail for wheelchairs in the foyer.

Facility & Maintenance team - Limited availability of trees left for purchase.

Facility & Maintenance team - burn permit for stumps and logs must be before March 21st or wait until after green-up.

Kliber Farms - it was agreed upon to again grant Kliber Farms to rent land and apply manure.

Pat Rioux moved and Noel Guerard seconded that we pursue Malt sales fundraiser to be held at the craft fair, with price of up to \$300 for the application process; with proceeds to go towards the sewer. Motion passed.

Additions:

Vacation Bible School: Alliance will host this year. no dates yet established.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 21st, 2016