



Newsletter

June 2015

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate

Take Note

The Faith Cookbook deadline has been extended to June 14. Please bring in your recipes. We need lots more!

Vacation Bible School is July 14, 15, 16 at Alliance Church. The theme is "SonSpark Labs" where children will learn God's plan for the people of His planet.

There will be no Newsletter in July, only a Calendar.

I came across an article recently where a pastor wrote, "Every church I've ever known started as a movement, became a monument, struggled as a museum, and then had to make a decision over whether or not to become a morgue." This quote became more relevant as we heard at our Ministerial meeting this month that the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in Little Falls which was established in 1858 is closing its doors.

No newly formed congregation has a long range plan of becoming a morgue at some point in its future and yet as this pastor noted it is often inevitable. As we were reminded on Pentecost Sunday it is the Holy Spirit that gives life to the Church. Jesus tells us that we cannot control the Holy Spirit anymore than we can control the wind. However, we can strive to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in other words be willing to move where the Holy Spirit will take us.

We can see that when the Church began the believers "**devoted** themselves to the Apostle's teaching (the word of God) and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42) Being united in the Spirit and the Word of God is a common theme throughout St. Paul's letters. To the church at Ephesus he encourages them to "maintain the unity of the Spirit." (4:3) To remain a moving, growing, and life-giving church we must share in this same devotion and unity. The Biblical metaphors for the church – the Shepherd and the sheep, the Vine and the branches – all speak to the necessity of being and working together.

The necessity of working together has been illustrated by the Minnesota Twins. This past April most people thought they were on their way to another losing season and now as of May 26 they are tied for first place in the American League. There are many factors for turning their season around but Joe Mauer likely gave the most appropriate answer when he said, "I know it sounds like a cliché right now, but it's a total team effort. It seems like a different guy is doing something to help us win every night. That's what makes it a lot more fun. Everybody's contributing to our early success."

The metaphor that St. Paul uses for the church is a body which is made up of many parts and each is necessary for the body to function properly. If a congregation wants remain alive and healthy then all need to remain united in the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to keep us moving!

Moving in Faith,
Pr. Nate Bjorge

President's Message –

Members of Faith Lutheran

"Love what you have. Need what you want. Accept what you receive. Give what you can. Always remember, what goes around, comes around..."

This old quote speaks volumes about life. Be thankful for what you have, ask for what you need, accept graciously what you receive and give to others in a measure that is befitting what you have been provided. Great advice for our prayers, I think. The last part usually has a negative connotation, but when couched in positive terms it can be that what or whom you have loved, been thankful for, accepted graciously and given away will come back in ways we can't imagine. The realization of these blessings will come like a "bolt out of the blue", and really make your day!

Develop the attitude of gratitude, and see the miracles that God has been waiting to show you.

God Bless you all!

Faith President,
Mark Whittington

Attendance & Offering

May	3:	190	\$ 6,063
May	10:	189	\$ 3,911
May	17:	190	\$ 4,236
May	24:	175	\$ 2,965
May	31:	164	\$ 4,619

Note:

No reports this month from
Facilities and Maintenance Team,
Mission and Outreach Team,
Youth and Family Team or
Children's Ministry Team

Worship & Prayer Ministry Team

Greetings fellow members of Faith Lutheran,

During the month of May we had the Graduate Recognition which was held on May 17th, and following the service, a potluck was held to mark the close of another Sunday school year. Thank you to all the Sunday school teachers for another great year! We also celebrated the Birthday of the church on May 24th. In addition to the birthday of the church we also celebrated the Baptism of Myla Marie Miller.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12:6-8

As I read this Bible passage, I thought of our congregation and how we each have our own place in helping our church "run". Greg Hyatt has shared the story of how he asked my husband to help with Communion and how he was hesitant. He did decide to take the step out of his comfort zone to help with Communion. Greg said that during the service he looked out and saw how my children and I were looking at my husband standing up there stepping out of his comfort zone to serve our church in this way. We were very proud of him. After church he approached Greg and thanked him for coming and asking him to help with Communion. This choice did not only affect my husband but also our family and when talking to Greg it affected him and others that he has shared this story with. We know that sometimes it is hard to step out of our own comfort zone to do something that may be a little nerve wracking, but we hope that you will consider signing up (on the table in the Narthex) on your own or accepting if asked by one of our team members. We have many opportunities for everyone to participate in our church and we hope that you will give it a chance to step out and invest in our church. The summer months, in particular, we need volunteers to help at worship services. If we all share in the workload, the load is much lighter for everyone. So please consider being a volunteer, if you have any questions, please talk to one of our team members (Melissa Hanson, Amy Kowalzek, Sandy Berulson, Greg and Kathy Hyatt)

For the team, Melissa Hanson

News from the Congregational Life Committee

Following the May 2015 meeting

Matthew 7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

I have been thinking about these verses since the big earthquake in Nepal. The devastation, damage and deaths are overwhelming for me to think about. This impresses me all the more right here in the Little Falls area to make sure we are building on the rock. Our church has foundations built on the rock.

Jesus told his followers that a stable foundation is critical in building lives. Jesus said, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who build his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock." The foundation of Jesus Christ is what will give us the stability our hearts and lives need now and into the future. By allowing the Lord's wisdom to guide us in our relationships, decisions, and priorities, we find that He provides the most trustworthy foundation any life could ever be built upon. Jesus is the best and only foundation upon which to build a solid life. A solid life builds a solid church. We, the people, are God's Church.

The first spring garage sale held at our church was very successful. In all of our past history it had been held at Howard and Bev Larsen's and Pat and Cheryl Rioux's. Thank you so much for this hospitality. It was really nice to have so much room to work with. The weather cooperated and the day brought in a little over \$1,800.00. Thank you to everyone who brought baked goods and contributed the many, many items for the sale and all those who worked getting it ready and the day of the sale. Missions will receive 10% of the profits from that day and the rest will go towards our loan on the pavement, sewer and water on the driveway by our church.

In May we honored two graduates. They were Jaelyn Scepurek and Caleb Trang. They were presented with a card from Faith Lutheran, flowers in their school colors, and a quilt made by the Faith Comforters. The after church reception served a delicious and beautiful cake. Congratulations Jaelyn and Caleb.

Our Sunday School picnic was on May 17th. It had been decided to have it at our church this year instead of at Belle Prairie Park. It was a good choice as it rained again that day, as it has done for most of our picnics. However, we still had a good turn out of people and a delicious meal. Shawn Larsen and Howard Larsen were able to run the grills up under the church entrance and they made wonderful hamburgers and hot dogs for all to enjoy. The shared dishes that everyone brought enhanced our meal greatly. The fellowship was wonderful and a few games were played indoors. Some of the younger children were able to go out in the parking lot after the picnic and make bubbles. They had a great time. This event was to end our Sunday School season and give all the teachers a break until in the fall again. Thank you to everyone who participated in any way for our picnic.

May we all continue to place our hope and trust in God alone as He is worthy of our trust. We can continue to thank God for leading and guiding us every day in all that we do and say. May God be glorified in what is said and done.

Until next time: Patricia Fernelius for the committee

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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Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting
6:00 p.m. May 21, 2015

Present: Mark Whittington, Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Al Bauman, Howie Larsen, Maureen Miller, Tom Lippert, Rich Collins, Pr. Nate, Tracy Marcus, Dave ZumBerge, Jason Leibold
 Absent: Pat Rioux

Treasurer's Report:
as of April 30, 2015

PROFIT & LOSS YTD	
Income	27,755.69
Expenses	19,946.56
Adjusted Net Income after total other expenses	10,809.13
 BALANCE SHEET YTD	
Total Current Assets	97,291.84
Total Fixed Assets	1,325,544.00
Total Assets.....	1,422,883.57
Total Liabilities.....	747,490.06
Total Equity.....	675,393.51
 Gen. Checking Balance available for operations	
	28,445.07
DESIGNATED Savings	9,238.27
Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal	25,030.78
Park. Lot/Landscaping Fund	14,829.23

The meeting opened with devotions led by Pastor Nate. Rich Collins moved and Howie Larsen seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Clarification was made about special offering designations made on the giving envelopes, between MORTGAGE PRINCIPLE and WATER AND SEWER ASSESSMENT. It is suggested that designations be made to WATER AND SEWER ASSESSMENT at this time as this debt has the highest interest rate.

Noel reported that all the accounts balance but that there was an incorrect account entry concerning Jamaica Mission funding so Noel moved with Tracy Marcus seconded that \$1039.00 be moved from General Fund to Undesignated Mission Funds, with motion passing. Howie Larsen moved with Rich Collins seconding the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate and others from the congregation attended the LCMC Abounding Joy open house. Al Bauman moved and Howie Larsen seconded that during the Brantley Wochnick baptism, Heather, Mike, and baby Brantley be accepted as new members of Faith also. The motion passed. The dates for the next Jamaica Mission trip are February 6, 2016, to February 14, 2016. A motion was made by Rich Collins and seconded by Maureen Miller to authorize that a \$500.00 deposit be made to lock in the trip dates. Motion passed. Cheryl Zarns moved with Noel Guerard seconding that a new laptop costing \$550.00 be purchased for Pastor Nate with the motion passing. More information will be forthcoming about the "I Still Do" video presentation for our congregation to take place in June.

Old Business: Roadside cleanup went very well with thanks to Lyle and Cathy Frerichs for hosting the lunch afterward. A \$2530.00 donation was made by the Kalisch family to purchase an AED device and accessories to be installed in the narthex. The donation remainder will go toward a Faith sign. Thank you to the Kalisch family for this generous memorial. Council again discussed the possibility of hiring a part-time Youth Director. Maureen Miller related that during the last Missions team meeting, Kay Campbell proposed that there would be adequate funding in the Missions budget by the end of this year. Council discussed requesting a student intern from nearby Christian colleges but as intern placements are made in the spring of the year, we could not place a request until spring of 2016. A committee is being formed to create a position description and list Faith needs and wants regarding a Youth Director. Howie Larsen from Congregational Life Ministry team said creating a current church pictorial directory should be looked into. Al Bauman gave a report on the columbarium committee progress. Once a drawing of the proposed wall of niches is presented to the congregation, greater interest in the project is expected.

New Business: After input from Tom Lippert from Facilities and Maintenance, regarding the process and expense of installing lawn irrigation, and Noel Guerard, regarding money available in the landscaping account, Howie Larsen moved with Dave ZumBerge seconding that after site grading, council approve the irrigation system installation and the installation of two 1 1/2" sand points from North Central Lawn Care and Irrigation for \$12,840.00. Motion passed. Mark Pugh has generously agreed to grade the site and also bring to the church property the huge rock sign to be installed. Thank you, Mark. Al Bauman moved with Dave ZumBerge seconding to have Faith sponsor a golf hole at the tournament for \$100.00. Motion passed. Al Bauman moved and Jason Leibold seconded to purchase for \$325 three stools for the AV booth. Motion passed. Rich Collins from the Gideons requested that a Gideon card rack be allowed to be hung in the narthex. Tom Lippert so moved, with Maureen Miller seconding. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Council meeting is June 18, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Cheryl Zarns, Council Secretary