



November

November 2023 Newsletter

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

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From Pastor Nate

It is October 31, and I am looking out the window at a snow-covered ground. Although I am not the fan of winter that I used to be when I was younger, I still love to see the change of seasons. Change is not always easy and is often something we would like to avoid, but nevertheless change is inevitable. As we read in Ecclesiastes, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” (3:1) Change can bring challenges but with it comes an opportunity for growth. Without change it is easy to become complacent.

Throughout Scripture we read that God is doing something new: a new creation, a new covenant, a new heart, a new birth, a new life... This is a new season for Faith Lutheran and for our family. We have been blessed to serve with you for the past 14 years: Kate as the leader of our praise band, Kaj as our first drummer and Haakon taking over after Kaj left for college. Anni helped with VBS, Sunday School, and finally as our Youth Director. Faith Lutheran has truly been our family of faith and will always have a special place in our hearts.

When we think back fourteen years ago, many of us were wondering what’s next, where will we go from here? But now we can look back and see how God has guided our path and provided for us along the way. And God will continue to shepherd this congregation. The words of Jeremiah speak to us now. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare... to give you a future and a hope.” (29:11)

There is a beauty in the change of seasons. And as we experience change, we can trust that “Our times are in God’s hand.” (Psalm 31:15) We truly want to thank you for our time here. You have made a lasting impact on our lives and so it is not a goodbye that we leave you with, but an until we meet again. In the words of St. Paul, “I (will) thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:3-6)

Together in Faith. God Bless you all!
Pr. Nate & Family

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

President's Message

Sunday November 5th is indeed a special day! On that day we have the opportunity as a congregation to vote to call Pastor Mark Johnson from Ottumwa, Iowa to be our new pastor. Our call committee has completed their mission and unanimously voted to call Pastor Mark. At our October meeting our church council also voted unanimously in favor of a call to Pastor Mark. What a wonderful job our Holy Spirit led call committee has done in working through the call process. "Thank You " A Special Thank You to our chairman Howie Larsen for you dedicated effort in successfully leading us in the call process. Please feel free visit with our call committee members if you have any questions. Their names are listed below.

Looking forward,
- Jim Nelson

Call Team Contact List

| Contact Name | E-Mail | Phone |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Howie Larsen | bevandhoward@hotmail.com | 320-632-6858 |
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Congregational Life

Confirmation will be held Sunday, October 29th. 5 young people will be confirmed. They are Dawson Carr, Sophia Christensen, Megan Fellbaum, Josie Stueber, Isabella Larsen. There will be refreshments following the church service to celebrate.

It may seem early to be thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas, however, there will be a pie social following our Thanksgiving eve service. Our Christmas boutique and bake sale will be held Saturday, Dec. 2nd. The hours are from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

There will be sign up sheets on the table in the gathering space! Please sign up to help in any way you can!

Our Congregational Life team will be going back to our original day, with a slight change in time. The first Tuesday of the month at 5:15 PM.

Any questions and ideas, contact any one of our team.

Cold weather is right around the corner! Stay warm!

Bev Larsen, for the team

Mission Statement

Know, Grow, Go

- *Know* God and others
- *Grow* in Faith
- *Go* in Faith to Love and Serve the Lord



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 Leader Report

Fall seems to be flying by. The time has come for more layers and heavier coats. This past October, Shield Youth Group moved from playing outdoor games to indoor games. Students' fall activities are wrapping up. I had the opportunity to see Bobby Toure play football in Fergus Falls. Despite the cold and the rain, Bobby had a fantastic game!

Our youth group is continuing with Lee Strobel's *The Case for Faith* curriculum on Wednesday evenings. We have been learning about, and discussing, how to confront and challenge doubts about Christianity.

This October, students participated in a nationwide youth outreach event called Fields of Faith. We all gathered together at the Little Falls High School football field. I was the keynote speaker this year and was granted the opportunity to share all the incredible ways that God has been present in my life. Matthew Neutz, Mouna Toure, and Cayden Olsen helped to lead worship. Paige Fellbaum courageously stepped up to read Isaiah 43:2 and share what that verse means to her. Although it was a chilly night, the event was a lot of fun, and I am so grateful for the chance to see how God is present in the lives of so many young people.

Serving as the Youth Director at Faith Lutheran this past year has been the greatest gift I could have ever asked for. God is doing incredible things through our youth group and our church. The young people in Shield Youth Group are the most kind-hearted, deep, spirit-filled students I have ever met. They are so encouraging of one another, willing to listen and talk about God, and happy to step up and help when asked. Faith Lutheran is not just a church, and being the Youth Director is not just a job. This is a family and my home. Change is never easy, and the future is full of uncertainties, but God is never changing and always reliable. I will be stepping out of the calling as the Youth Director at Faith in mid-November. However, this is not goodbye. The beautiful thing about being a faith family is that the relationships you build are lasting and bound by a love for Jesus. I love you all, and I cannot express how truly blessed and grateful I am for the opportunity you gave me when you hired me in this position. Thank you.



Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Alpha is up and running. We kicked off our first Alpha evening, Wednesday, October 11. With hosts, helpers



and guests, we currently have 31 people. We also have an additional four people "behind the scenes" with things such as tech, set up, preparing food and clean-up.

Trunk or treat was Saturday, October 28 and we had a great turnout! Although we don't have a headcount as to how many kids showed up, there was a very steady flow from 1-3. Families came and went trick-or-treating at the 15 trunks. Afterwards, there were activities for them to participate in. There was a photo booth, pumpkin bowling, pumpkin ping pong toss, balloon pop, and a maze. We are looking forward to doing this again next year!

To contact me, call/text 320-630-2887 or email at volunteerfaithlutheran@gmail.com
God Bless, Amanda Hyatt

October Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, October 19th, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Judy Berger, Steve Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Joe Hyatt, Howie Larsen, Zach Leibold, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux and Pastor Nate

Absent: Tom Lippert, Faye Sandy and Renae Stueber

The meeting was called to order by Jim Nelson and opening prayer led by Joel Hanson.

Secretary's Report: Joel Hanson moved and Joe Hyatt seconded to accept the September Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah also shared the order form from Coborn's for Poinsettias for Christmas. With the rising costs and tight deadline, the council decided to do something else for poinsettias closer to Christmas time. Sarah also shared a suggestion from the suggestion box regarding tree trimming.

Treasurer's Report: Overall giving is down but is similar to last year. A niche in the columbarium has been purchased which will pay off the columbarium loan. Howie Larsen moved and Denny Myers seconded to approve the September financial reports. Motion carried. Sarah also reported the current balance of the Mortgage Principal Fund is: \$83,469 which will be made in a large mortgage principal payment in December.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate did the funeral for Tom Bjorge on October 14. Several other members are not doing well. Confirmation class is going well. There will be five confirmed on October 29th.

Youth Leader Report: Annika's report shared events from October including how their youth group has been doing with the Case for Faith study by Lee Strobel. Annika will be speaking at Fields of Faith on October 25th. The Youth will also be helping with Trunk or Treat and in November, the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. When they are finished with the Case for Faith study they will move on to the Life Revealed series.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Amanda shared how Alpha is going, the upcoming Women's Bible Study and the Trunk or Treat plans.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children's Team: The Children's Christmas program has been scheduled for Sunday, December 17. Rehearsals will be the 3rd and 10th of December. The winter Sunday School curriculum has been ordered.
- Congregational Life Team: Roadside cleanup was Sunday, October 15th. It went well. Plans are underway for the Confirmation reception. The Christmas Boutique sale has been set for Saturday, December 2. Howie Larsen moved and Joe Hyatt seconded to send the funds to the Mortgage principal. Motion carried.
- Finance & Management Team: No meeting this month. Next month they will begin on budgets.
- Mission & Outreach Team: The funds sent to the Nicaragua mission are on pause by request of the host church as they figure out their missions. Howie Larsen moved and Judy Berger seconded to give up to \$2500 toward the Alpha retreat to help cover costs. This will come from the funds the Mission team already has allocated to them. Motion carried.
- Worship & Prayer Team: Next meeting is scheduled for November.
- Youth & Family Team: Covered by the Youth Director report.

New Business:

End-of-Year Business: At this time the council is looking forward toward the business needed at the end of the year. Preparing to set budgets, considering the nominating team as we have 4 members going off the council and none will be running for re-election, and setting up the audit for January which is recommended to be done by someone outside the congregation this year.

Wireless Mics for camera: Cyndi Stanek has been having issues with the sound on the new camera and recommends we order a new wireless microphone for the camera. Joe Hyatt moved and Denny Myers seconded to make this purchase up to \$300. Motion carried.

Snowplowing Bid: A bid was received from Seward and Sons regarding snowplowing for the upcoming winter season. The price has increased to \$150/plow. Steve Fellbaum moved and Zach Leibold seconded to approve this bid and hire Seward and Sons for snowplowing. Motion carried.

Call Team Update: After the visit and serious consideration the call team unanimously votes to call Pastor Mark Johnson. If the council approves this call as well, the vote will then go to the congregation. This will require calling a congregational meeting which will be announced for two Sundays prior and an email/postcard will be sent to all members. Denny Myers moved and Steve Fellbaum seconded to approve the call of Pastor Mark Johnson and schedule the congregation meeting for Sunday, November 5th. Motion carried.

Joel Hanson moved and Zach Leibold seconded to adjourn the October Council meeting.

The next meeting will take place November 16th, 2023

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

Attendance & Offering

| | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| October | 1: | 163 | \$ 7,023 |
| October | 8: | 147 | \$ 3,869 |
| October | 15: | 144 | \$ 3,988 |
| October | 22: | 121 | \$ 3,665 |
| October | 29: | 201 | \$ 4,780 |
| | | | Church Mortgage |
| | | | Balance: \$312,482 |