



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

Take Note...

Online giving now available on our website: faithlutheranlittlefalls.org



Lent Schedule:

- Wednesday, Feb. 14
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesdays, Feb. 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20
6:00 p.m. Lent Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Lent Worship
Thursday, March 28
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, March 29
12 noon Community Good Friday Worship
2:00 p.m. Prayer & Healing Worship
3:00 p.m. 24-Hour Prayer Vigil Begins
Sunday, March 31
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Easter Worship
10:45 a.m. Egg Hunt

From Pastor Mark...

Lent in Daily Life

Let Anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Revelation 2:11

What is Lent???

The word Lent is based on the Middle English word lente which meant spring...

Lent is a period of 40 days - not counting Sundays - prior to Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday...

Already, we notice the period of daylight lengthening with each new day. It's a sign that it's time for the season of Lent...

So it is with our life: We go from the darkness of sin to the light of righteousness in Christ...

This Year's Theme: The Seven Churches of Revelation.

Enjoy the fellowship of the Congregational Supper each week starting at 6:00 pm. Beginning February 21st...

Table with 3 columns: Date, Church Name, Scripture Reference. Includes February 14 (Ephesus), February 21 (Smyrna), and February 28 (Pergamum).

You are invited: Make Lent a time of equipping for repentance and renewal in the home.

Strengthen our church family with your presence at worship as we grown in understanding the gift of God's renewing grace in Christ.

In Christ, Pastor Mark

# President's Message

Happy February!

I've said this before but it bears repeating - once January is gone, winter is over. This weather has certainly shortened the time until Spring arrives.

On 28 January, Faith had its annual meeting. We had wonderful attendance, active participation, and interesting discussions. Everything a great meeting needs. We have four new council members: Mike Johnson; Chris Scholl; Pam Trang' and Steve Tschida. Thank all of you for stepping forward. They will bring a wealth of experience and talent to the council.

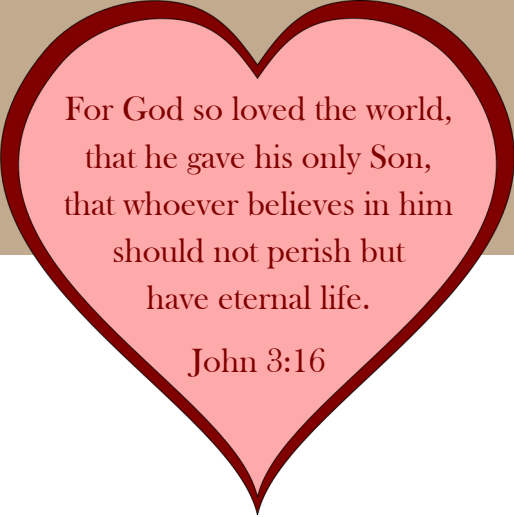
2024 will be an exciting year for Faith. Pastor Mark brings new perspectives and a fresh look at addressing issues that face us. The great thing about Faith Lutheran is that we are a strong, Bible-based congregation, filled with people who have a heart for God. We are primed for growth. Not only financially and in number of members (we plan on conducting a New Member Sunday in the near future), but also by expanding our role within the community.

More good news is that the process of calling a youth director is quickly moving forward. We already have applicants and anticipate hearing from others. The team heading up the process has done an outstanding job in getting this far so fast.

As 2024 moves on, we will do all we can to keep you informed on events and areas of interest and importance affecting Faith Lutheran.

Please keep our country and Faith in your prayers.

God bless you,  
Howie



For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but  
have eternal life.

John 3:16

## Congregational Life Team

Our team had a reception for Pastor Mark and his family on the Sunday of his installation in January. We welcome Pastor Mark, Sarah, Isaac, and Karena into our Faith family.

We look forward to working with them and getting to know all of them. Please take time to greet them and chat with them when you get a chance.

On another note, I will be leaving the Cong. Life team and along with that stepping down from Chairperson. I have completed a second round of 6 years on the team and according to the by-laws of Faith, I need to take a year off. I have so enjoyed working with all of the dedicated people on our various Cong. Life teams.

Thank you for always stepping up to make all the events successful!

Our council reps for 2024 are Steve Tschida and Howie Larsen.

Remember the suggestion box in the gathering space if you have any comments or suggestions or contact any of our team members.

Wishing everyone God's blessings for a healthy and safe 2024,  
Bev for the team

## Youth and Family Team

On January 5th 2024 the Youth New Years Bash was held at church. We had 20 youth there with a few past students. We played broom ball, cookie drop and a few other games. They also did just dance. The adult chaperones included Lyn and Jenna Kull, Patrick and Renae Stueber, Justin Juelke and Matthew Neutz. It was a great turnout with all the school events going on that night. I would like to say thank you to Lyn Kull and Mouna for taking the time to set up on Friday morning.

Wednesday night Youth group has been going great. We have been around 15-20 kids every week with a few new faces that have invited by the kids. They are watching the videos from alpha life revealed and breaking into small groups afterwards. I have reached out to a couple of adults to help lead small groups and hope to have a good rotation. Steve Tschida, Amanda Hyatt, Matthew Neutz and Patrick Stueber are volunteers. We are looking at planning a mission trip for this summer and maybe getting back to volunteering monthly at the food shelf in town.

### Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

Directories are done! A PDF has been emailed to those we have an email for. If you requested a printed copy, please see me on Sundays or stop at church Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm.

If you did not receive an email, please let us know if you would like the directory via email to you by calling the church office and speaking with me. (320)414-0533.

There is a men's Bible study beginning Sunday, February 4 at 5pm in the church library. This study is on the book of Romans and will be led by Joe Hyatt. To sign-up, you can:

- Call/text Joe at (320)241-4170
- Reply to this email
- Just show up on Sunday, February 4 at 5pm.

There are other Bible studies being discussed. Be sure to watch the bulletin or the "Faith Happenings" emails for more details.

We will be streaming a webinar, and you are all invited to join us and bring a friend or two as well. This will take place on Thursday, February 15. Doors open at 10:30am and the webinar begins at 11:00.

This webinar is titled, "Guiding the Next-Gen to a Biblical View of Sexuality". The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is providing this. They designed this webinar to help others address this topic with understanding, kindness, and truth.

We will navigate sexuality and identity by exploring biblically grounded strategies to approach this with the younger generation.

We will also hear legal insights on gender ideology and the legal implications of addressing these issues and there will be a highlight on the public school policies that parents need to know about.

You do not have to be a parent to attend. This can be helpful knowledge for all of us.

## 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**

#### ***Faith Lutheran Church***

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# January Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

*Present:* Judy Berger, Joel Hanson, Joe Hyatt, Howie Larsen, Zach Leibold, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, Faye Sandy, Renae Stueber and Pastor Mark

*Absent:* Steve Fellbaum and Tom Lippert

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

**Secretary's Report:** Judy Berger moved and Joel Hanson seconded to accept the December Council Minutes. Motion carried. Sarah shared a suggestion from the suggestion box, information about the furnace repair and concerns about the sprinkler system sensors in the attic.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cheryl Rioux stepped in to present the Treasurer's reports. Revenue for 2023 was well above budget with total expenditures falling below budget. Between the budget numbers and the large Mortgage Principal payment, the finances are looking great going into 2024. Denny Myers moved and Howie Larsen seconded to approve the December Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mark shared his planned vacation and continuing education days so far. He would also like to schedule an "Ask the Pastor" event in February. Denny Myers moved and Joel Hanson seconded to approve Pastor Mark's requested W2 change; moving \$1149.46 from Pastor Mark's salary to Housing Allowance based on receipts of actual expenses. This will incur a fee from our payroll company as well. Motion carried. Currently being scheduled: New Member Information sessions then a New Member Sunday, First Communion Classes as well as Lent worship and events.

**Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report:** "The Art of Marriage" materials have been ordered, the dates for this are TBD. After Easter, Tod Tonsager will begin a Wednesday evening Bible study. The Tuesday Women's Bible study will be wrapping up in February. The Directory is finished and ready to go to print.

For security on Wednesday evenings, it was recommended that the doors be locked after a certain time since no one is watching them during Confirmation and Youth Group.

## Old Business:

### Ministry Team Reports:

- Children's Team: did not meet.
- Congregational Life Team: Bev Larsen is leaving the team so they are looking for new members. They will be providing treats the day of the Annual Meeting.
- Finance & Management Team: Did not meet.
- Mission & Outreach Team: Kennard Fellbaum has stepped up to be the chair this year. They try to split their support evenly between State, Local and International missions.
- Worship & Prayer Team: Did not meet.
- Youth & Family Team: The Youth Director job description is now posted on the LCMC website. The New Year's Eve Bash was a success with about 20 students attending. Wednesday Youth Group seems to be going well. They are watching videos from Alpha Life Revealed and then doing small groups. A mission trip can hopefully be planned for this summer.

*Columbarium:* Still no information to order the nameplate so this is still on hold.

*Nominating Committee Update:* The candidates are: Steve Tschida, Mike Johnson, Chris Scholl and Pam Trang.

*Audit Report:* Renee Miller graciously assisted us with our Audit. She was given information regarding our practices and was able to look through our financial reports. Everything looks good.

## New Business:

*Repairs and Maintenance:* Following the large furnace repair an annual inspection was set up with Thelen to hopefully prevent further large issues. Faye Sandy moved and Joel Hanson seconded to increase the repairs and maintenance budget to \$6000 to hopefully cover any further building issues. Motion carried.

*Morrison County Record Directory:* The Record reached out to offer us the ability to place an ad in their annual Directory. Howie Larsen moved and Renae Stueber seconded to place a 1/8 page ad from the Worship & Prayer Advertising budget. Motion carried.

*Future Officers:* The Council treasurer needs to step down as his time has been served so the council needs to start thinking about whether they would be willing to step into a leadership role on the council following the Annual meeting.

*Church Credit Card:* Pastor Nate needs to be removed from the church credit card account. Someone else needs to be the main contact person for the credit card. Faye Sandy agreed to put herself onto the credit card.

*Desktop Computer for Pastor:* Cheryl Rioux recommends the purchase of a desktop computer for Pastor Mark. She presented a deal she was able to negotiate with HP for the order. Joe Hyatt moved and Denny Myers seconded to approve this purchase for \$1136.10 with sales tax being credited back after purchase. Motion carried.

*Security:* It has come to the attention of the security team that doors are not always being properly secured. An email was sent out to keyholders to remind them to make sure the doors are latched. Denny Myers also recommends more security for the youth on Wednesdays.

## Attendance & Offering

January 7: 149 \$ 4,665  
January 14: 125 \$ 4,512  
January 21: 170 \$ 3,527  
January 28: 134 \$ 3,157

*2024 Goals:* For the next meeting, Howie Larsen recommends the council consider some goals we as a church can work toward this year.

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

The next meeting will take place February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary