



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

Take Note...

Online giving now available on our website: faithlutheranlittlefalls.org



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

Attendance & Offering

Table with 3 columns: Date, Attendance, Offering. Includes Church Mortgage Balance: \$133,927

From Pastor Mark...

Giving Thanks as a Nation

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:17

Thanksgiving has its roots in difficult times in our nation. We usually think of Thanksgiving as starting with the Pilgrims who came to America to start a new life. But it wasn't until we were at war – the Civil War to be exact – that our Thanksgiving holiday was officially recognized by Congress and became an official annual holiday.

Yes, it all started in the small Plymouth Colony in 1621 when the English Pilgrims feasted with members of the Wampanoag Indians who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill. The custom grew in various colonies as a way to celebrate the harvest. In 1777, over 100 years later, the Continental Congress proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving after the American Revolution victory at the Battle of Saratoga. But it was twelve years later that George Washington proclaimed another National Day of Thanksgiving in honor of the Ratification of the Constitution and requested that the Congress finally make it an annual event. They declined and it would be another 74 years and the middle of a bloody civil war before President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be an official holiday known as “Thanksgiving.” The year was 1863. Congress changed this to the fourth Thursday in November in 1942.

Since then we've taken time every year, as a nation, to give thanks for our many blessings. On Thanksgiving Day, when you sit down to a feast with loved ones – remember that “giving thanks” is a Christian virtue and that's it's also an American tradition. Give thanks to God who is the source of all goodness and grace.

In Christ, Pastor Johnson

President's Message

Members of Faith,

Cool weather is definitely upon us. We have certainly been blessed with a beautiful Fall so far. The leaves on the maples, ash, willow, and oaks in our yard had turned so many amazing colors. God's hand was certainly at work. Then came Sunday, 13 October. The wind was awful. By Monday many of our trees were 70% bare. Still and all, God in His infinite, incredible plan for us, has made His world an unbelievable showcase of change.

God's question has always been how we face change and what we do about it. In many cases, the Jewish people rebelled and were beaten down until God relented and showed them a way forward. Repentance and a change of heart saved them to a better way of life.

Repentance and a change of heart has, and always will be, our saving grace.

Change in how we, as a society, face the challenges in morals, ethics, and the pressures of evil in our lives will be our judgement in God's eyes. Do we simply go along with what today's culture is pushing us toward? Or do we stand up and say, "ENOUGH".

So, how do we change the things we can change? I certainly don't have all the answers, but here are some possibilities.

1. Search our hearts to seek truth by listening to God's word.
2. Speak up when we know lies are being told.
3. Live our lives as an example of Christ's love.
4. Be authentic in all we do - no hypocrisy - no fakeness.
5. Be giving with money, time, effort, without asking, expecting, or wanting anything in return.
6. Always do the best we can - in everything - when no one else is watching.
7. Never give up on our principles.

We may have doubts and questions, but never stop believing in Christ's love for us.

Understand that God is always by our side, is always with us, supports us, and guides us with the power of the Holy Spirit. Whether we do well or fail in our efforts, God is constant and loves us.

Change is constant. How we address it and accept it is up to us. With God's help we can make a difference, both in our own lives and in the world around us.

Change. Let us all listen and heed the Holy Spirit whispering in our ears when it tells us to step up for God.

As a final note, please vote responsibly.

God bless you,
Howie

Mission & Outreach Team

Faith Donates to Hurricane Relief – In response to the devastation in the southeastern U.S. from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the Faith Mission & Outreach ministry made two \$500 donations and will be collecting additional donations through the end of October. One \$500 donation was made to Samaritan's Purse which is based in Boone, North Carolina, and the second was sent to Christ the King Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, an LCMC church that is assisting in coordinating donations for a badly damaged community in Flat Rock (North Carolina). Donations were collected through October and will be sent to the two agencies in early November.

Other Donations – Other gifts approved in October included a) \$500 for the Boys & Girls Club of Morrison County; b) \$500 to Hands of Hope Resource Center in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October); and a payment of \$330 to the Little Falls Area Ministerial Association, including \$300 for the Community Thanksgiving Meal (if the association sponsors the meal next month) and \$30 for Pastor's association dues. The \$300 sponsorship of the Community Meal is "pending" the official go ahead for the meal. Faith recently sent several other donations including: 1) \$500 to the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL); 2) \$200 to the Spiritual Orphans Network (SON); 3) \$500 to Mount Carmel for the renewal of our Proclaimer Congregation Sponsorship.

Additional Mission & Outreach Team Activities/Donations – Faith will host a fellowship drama event on November 17. The team approved spending up to \$300 to pay a travel stipend for the actors. The team also approved spending approximately \$75 to pay for tracts to insert in the bags for children attending the Trunk or Treat event.

Christian Persecution in Myanmar – Faith will be making a \$300 gift to Awakening Lives for World Mission (ALWM), a ministry founded by Bill Moberly to provide refugee relief for Christians being persecuting in Myanmar and a \$500 gift to the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) to secure a membership with the legal organization, which helps ministries facing religious prosecution in the U.S.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

The trunk-or-treat was amazing! There were a total of 296 participants this year and almost 50 volunteers!

I would like to give a huge Thank You to all those that volunteered their time before, during and after to help things run smoothly! You are all so greatly appreciated!!

Also, thank you to everyone who helped spread the word to others and those that came to partake in the activities!! It was a beautiful day, and everyone had so much fun!! Can't wait for next year!!

Brian Bergs is hosting a bible study following John MacArthur's guide, "Genesis 1 to 11 Creation, Sin and the Nature of God". This takes place at Faith Lutheran on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. You're still welcome to join, let Amanda know if you need a study guide.

There will be a craft day on Saturday, November 9, 9am-4pm. Bring a friend (or several) and a project to work on. Soup will be provided for lunch. Bring a dish to share to go with the soup.

Johan and Sonja Hinderlie will be coming to Faith Lutheran on November 17. They will portray the roles of the 16th century reformer Martin Luther and his wife, Katarina. They present the testimony of these amazing people in full costume with all the flavor of the Reformation time in Germany. This event will begin at 6pm. It will consist of a meal, performance and fellowship. There will be a free will offering collected during the meal to offer to Johan & Sonja for the performance.

Thank you to all those who have been available to assist with Sunday morning service. Just a reminder, online sign-up is available. To sign-up online, follow the link in the weekly 'Faith Happenings' email or scan the QR Code on the sign-up table in the gathering area at church.

If you are interested in being in or leading a small group, feel free to contact me, I would love to discuss options with you! My contact info is below.

God Bless,

Amanda Hyatt

Office: 320-414-0533 / Cell: 320-630-2887

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Children's Team

Hello November! As we see the leaves falling, we know that cold air is right around the corner. What else does this mean? So is Christmas and the Children's Program!!

With that being said, we, the Children's Ministry Team, would like to give you a glance at what is being planned.

Our Christmas program will be held *Sunday, December 15* during worship service. There will not be Sunday School that day. For rehearsals, we will be practicing after service on the following dates:

- Sunday, November 24
- Sunday, December 1
- Sunday, December 8

With these dates in mind, we would appreciate it if you could sign your child(ren) up so we have an estimate of how many students will be taking part. This is open for 3yr olds-12th grade. All are encouraged to take part in the program.

To sign your child(ren) up, please see the signup sheet on the signup table at church or scan the QR code. Also, please indicate if you are willing to help with this event.

If you have any questions or are interested in being a part of this amazing team to help guide the children of our church, please contact a member of the Children's Ministry Team.

Thank you for your support,

The Children's Ministry Team

Becky Fellbaum (chair), Steve Fellbaum (council rep), Mike Johnson (council rep), Emily Pantzke, Renae Stueber, Patrick Stueber, Judy Berger, Amanda Hyatt



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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October Council Minutes

October 17th, 2024 (6:30 pm)

Present: Pastor Mark Johnson, Howie Larsen, Joe Hyatt, Michael Johnson, Zach Leibold, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Pam Trang, Steve Tschida, Sarah Kalkbrenner. Absent: Steve Fellbaum, Tom Lippert, Jim Nelson

Howie called the meeting to order. Steve opened in prayer. There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary's report: Faye moved to accept the minutes as written. Chris seconded. The motion carried.

Worship – Matt Neutz said he would fill in for Joan once a month.

Mugs – Faye reported it would be \$500 to purchase 100 mugs, so we will not be pursuing this.

Job descriptions – Chris said this process has just started, Safety Deposit Box – this process is almost completed, Credit Card – Faye has been working on. The paperwork is quite extensive.

There was one suggestion from suggestion box asking that we use communion wafers. Howie will reach out and let them know there are gluten-free wafers available, if they would like. There was discussion where suggestions that aren't signed should be brought up at council. Howie will review them before bringing them to council.

Treasurer's report (Joe) Cash total is \$109,460.03, with \$25,038.61 in the General Fund and \$24,387.69 in the Reserve Fund. The mortgage is down to \$134,205.99. Income year to date is \$234,726.97, which is \$38,887.03 under budget. Income at this time last year was \$308,214.03. Expenditures year to date are \$187,102.01, which is \$34,053.00 under budget. We are \$7,409.97 to the good. There is a CD coming due in December. Zach moved to accept report. Steve seconded. The motion carried. LCMC has been pulling out the incorrect amount for Pastor Mark's pension; this will be corrected by the end of the year. Due to new state requirements, we need to provide payroll information to the state. An account has been set up with the state so our payroll company can submit the information.

Pastor's Report Pastor Mark will be gone 11/17 and 12/29. He shared a list of readings and videos about Reformation Sunday. There is 1 couple, 1 family, and 1 single gentlemen who will be joining the church. New Member Class makeup session will be held this Sunday. No date has yet been set for New Member Sunday. Pastor again recommended "Religious Liberty in Crisis" for reading by the council. Staff reviews have been completed.

Our insurance company sent a few suggestions and a checklist for updating our By-Laws and Constitution. Jim, Faye, Howie and Pastor Mark will work on this. Some congregational members were suggested for the committee. Faye will work on getting this started.

Pastor Mark passed out 2024 Voter's Guide from MN Family Council. A link to the Voter's guides will be emailed to the congregation and some printed copies will be available as well. He talked about the Men's Ministry event coming up on Friday, November 1st. It is to help make men aware of the issue of pornography. The goal is to attend the event, and then have 3 follow-up meetings for Faith attendees.

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports

- *Children's* (Mike): The committee discussed the Sunday School Christmas program, which will be held December 15th. There will be 3 practices. There was some discussion on cleaning Children's items out of the attic. Costumes will be removed from the attic after the Christmas program. "With One Voice" books & green hymnals are also in the attic. There may be some churches that could use them. There is also paint that should be moved out. Joe will take care of the paint.
- *Congregational Life* (Pam): Howie moved that the Boutique & Bake Sale be held the 1st Saturday of December (Dec. 7), Joe seconded. The motion carried. Council discussed where proceeds for boutique should go. Money will go into general fund for right now. Kathy Hyatt will set up a table to raise money for mission trip. Council discussed using proceeds from garage sale for a new grill. Mission & Outreach was asked to investigate setting up a budget item for education/training for the congregation.
- *Finance & Management* (Joe) – did not meet.
- *Mission & Outreach* () Chris moved that \$500 be donated to Christ the King Church in Charlotte, North Carolina and \$500 to Samaritan's Purse for Hurricane Relief, and \$500 be donated to Alliance Defending Freedom, per the request of the committee. Pam seconded. The motion carried.
- *Worship & Prayer* (Faye) – didn't meet
- *Youth & Family* (Renae) – Fields of Faith will be Oct 23rd. Cayden Olsen will work with Field of Faith and will also lead the Youth Group the last Wednesday of the month. The committee discussed summer trip possibilities. Renae moved that money raised with Wednesday Night Lenten Suppers go to the youth. Steve & Zach seconded. The motion carried.

Youth Director Search Update – A full-time position was offered to Heather, she declined. She is interested in part-time position. There was discussion about how much PTO is being offered, one hour per 30 hours worked. She would be required to be at church on Sundays as part of her job description. Having part of compensation be for medical insurance was discussed. An amount would be paid to them, which they would use to pay for medical insurance. Additional theological education was also discussed. Zach moved we offer the package we discussed for \$20,000 for 20 hr per week (\$30,000 for the package), Faye seconded. The motion carried.

Faith's 15th Anniversary – Howie will check with Bev about the cake. Howie will say a few words.

New Business:

Parking Lot Lights – they are not on a timer right now. We would need to have an electrician install a photo eye or a timer. Zach will check with Central MN Electric about this.

Nominating Team – members scheduled to go off the council: Howie, Jim, Steve F., Joe. Two council members are needed for the committee, rest are from the congregation. Howie volunteered. He will check and see if Jim or Tom will like to be on the Team as well.

Audit – Someone from inside the church is needed to do the audit in January. Howie will ask around to see if anyone would be interested.

Budgets – need to be get worksheets to the committees.

Security – Pastor Mark recommended that unlocked doors always be monitored, and unmonitored doors be locked.

Zach will open the next meeting with prayer. Joe moved to close the meeting. Steve seconded. The motion carried. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.