



October

October 2024 Newsletter

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

From Pastor Mark...

Reformation Today

"We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard."
Acts 4:20

The *Reformation* started on October 31st, 1517, when a priest by the name of Martin Luther pounded his 95 Theses to chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany. These were 95 points for how the church of that time should shape up or *reform* itself to be faithful to God's calling. For example, he wanted to end the practice of asking people to pay money to have their sins forgiven. He also wanted the pope to realize that the only reason he had any authority to retain or forgive sins (office of Keys) was because of scripture – not the pope's man-made authority. At that point, Luther was the loyal opposition trying to reform the church from within. At the heart of his constructive criticism was, and is, God's holy Word. Needless to say, Martin Luther's first try at reforming the church was not received very favorably.

But, by God's grace, he persevered and he refused to give up just because human authorities disapproved. God's Word had become like a burning fire shut up in his bones (Jeremiah 20:9). He couldn't ignore it.

The Reformation was sparked by God's Word which had to be shared.

For Luther, it was like a life-line that had to be thrown out to people who desperately needed help. He wanted people to know about passages like Jeremiah 31:34, "**...I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.**" He wanted people to know about passages like Romans 3:24, that tells us we are made right with God by the grace of Jesus; that we are saved by believing in Jesus, not because of our good works.

How do we carry on the practice of *Reformation*? It starts with taking God's Word to heart to the point that we cannot keep from telling others about this Good News of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to seeing you at worship on Reformation Sunday, October 27 which is also Confirmation Sunday. As part of our Reformation celebration, on October 20, we will commemorate John Hus, a reform minded preacher who preceded Luther by 100 years.

In Christ,
Pastor Johnson

President's Message

Greetings Family of Faith,

Today I'd like to talk about the unsung heroines and heroes of Faith.

There are many things that happen at Faith that go unnoticed and un-thanked for. We need to understand, appreciate, acknowledge, and thank those who do the work behind the scenes that make worship and events go so smoothly.

There was a funeral at Faith last Wednesday. The funeral was for a person who was not a member of our church. That didn't matter. Many members of Faith stepped forward to bring food, help set up, serve, and clean up - all as a service to the grieving family. None of those people even thought of being recognized for their efforts. It's just something we do at Faith. Thank all of you for helping.

There were suggestions in the suggestion box that the council considered at the council meeting on Thursday. One of them was about the possibility of using wafers instead of bread during communion. After discussion, the council unanimously approved the continued use of bread baked by volunteers. We learned that the volunteers enjoy providing this service, plus it is a long-standing tradition at Faith. This is another under-appreciated, un-thanked for, and unnoticed background thing that makes our communion services beautiful. Thanks to all the wonderful bread makers.

It was brought up at council that it would be a good idea to have additional people help with the sound system during worship. This is a background thing that goes unnoticed during the service. Without sound technicians and projectionists, the worship services would be not nearly so organized or easy to follow. Thank all of you who have stepped forward to take care of this important work.

Along with sound and video, there are the things that go into communion preparation. Before the service, there are volunteers who fill the wine chalices, ensure the bread is plated, and make sure the wine cups and baskets are in place. Thank all of you who help with communion set up and clean up. Without your diligence, communion services would not go nearly as planned.

There are many others we need to acknowledge and thank for what they do behind the scenes. Nursery attendants; Sunday School teachers; those who work with our youth; those who take care of landscaping and maintenance; those who care for the beauty of the columbarium and flowers at the entrance to our church; the musicians; scripture readers; communion assistants; quilters; refreshment providers; coffee makers, and those who participate in Roadside cleanup. The list goes on and on. Thank all of you who do those things for being so willing to make this congregation a welcoming, beautiful place to worship.

We would like even more people to step up and be part of the "background" folks who make things work at Faith. Please don't hesitate to become another unsung hero or heroine. It is surprising how fulfilling, fun, and satisfying that is.

Remember, God loves you and will always be with you.

Howie

Attendance & Offering

September 1:	97	\$ 3,366
September 8:	134	\$ 4,991
September 15:	156	\$ 5,220
September 22:	138	\$ 4,387
Church Mortgage		
Balance: \$138,207		

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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Ministry Volunteer Coordinator

As I stepped outside this morning, the air was just cool enough that it really felt like Fall was here. What perfect timing as we announce that we will be hosting our 2nd annual Trunk-or-Treat! This will take place at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, October 26 from 1-3pm

There will be music, games and of course, Trunk-or-Treating! For those unaware of what Trunk-or-Treating is, it's where people open the back of the vehicle and decorate it. Each vehicle is treated as a house, as families arrive, they go trunk to trunk collecting treats or other goodies.

There will also be music and fun activities to take part in. There are many ways to help with this event. We need volunteers to set-up, game station leaders and helpers, handout welcome bags, count people (don't worry, you will get a clicker to use) trunk hosts and a clean-up crew.

There is a sign-up sheet at church in the gathering area or you can scan the QR Code to sign-up online.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me!

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, you can scan use the same QR code as the Trunk-or-Treat code.

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

God Bless,
Amanda Hyatt



Trunk Or Treat

Saturday, October 26
1-3 p.m.

Upcoming Opportunities

Men's Ministry Opportunity: "Pursuing Holiness Together"

Where: Living Hope Church

When: Friday, November 1, 6:30 pm.

Why: To encourage & equip men to pursue holiness together, especially in the area of sexual purity.

What: Program includes a meal followed by a presentation and a time of small group discussion.

Cost: \$15 registration includes dinner and a book.

For more information, please talk to Pastor Mark

Mount Carmel Retreat: Mount Carmel in Alexandria MN is hosting a retreat for married and engaged couples. The retreat topic is "More to this Life". This will provide a deeply meaningful experience to the couples that attend that will not only strengthen your communication with one another, but also give you practical tools to help you grow as a couple.

This will take place October 11-13. The cost is \$200 per couple which includes your lodging and meals. There is a brochure on the bulletin board at or you can speak with Amanda about any questions you have.

September Council Minutes

September 19th, 2024 (6:30 pm)

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

Howie called the meeting to order. Chris opened with prayer.

Additions to Agenda:

Justin Juelke & Julie Shelstad spoke for the Worship Team – Sound board: Volunteers are needed to run the sound board. He needs a consistent backup. Justin has tried to find volunteers but has been unable to get any firm commitments. Faye, Steve T., and Sarah are willing to train and go on a rotation. Justin needs to be available for rehearsals, so someone else needs to be on the soundboard then also.

A sub is needed for Joan on the piano. Currently she has to be at every service and rehearsal. He wondered if a part time (one weekend a month/fill-in) pianist could be hired. This would give Joan a break once a month and give us a fill-in if needed. Chris will check with Amy to see about posting a notice at St Francis about the position. Currently there is no job description for the pianist. Justin asked that one be put together. Responsibilities: one rehearsal during the week, rehearsal and service on Sunday morning one week a month or as needed.

15th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran will be November 3rd. The council discussed whether we should plan something special for the anniversary. It was suggested to keep it low key due to the short planning time available. Suggestions were to invite someone to church that Sunday, have cake, and maybe a slide show.

Secretary's report: Joe moved to accept the minutes. Steve T. seconded the motion. The motion carried. Sarah shared the quilts have removed almost all of their items from the attic. Joe and Jim will work on getting everything else out. The newsletter deadline is Monday. Suggestions from the suggestion box were read and discussed. Sound issues in the nursery – Justin is addressing. Use wafers instead of bread for Communion – A special thank you to those for making bread for communion. The Alter Guild will be asked to wait for the fresh bread when setting up on Communion Sundays. There was also a request that preaching follow the lectionary.

Treasurer's report: Joe highlighted the general & reserves funds – they are looking good. We want to keep the general fund over \$25,000. Giving is \$32,222.84 under budget and expenses are \$37,166.71 under budget, so we are \$7,708.81 to the good for the year. Tom moved to accept the treasurer's report, Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report: A funeral was held yesterday at the church. The family was very complimentary of the service and the lunch. Outdoor worship went well. We have new Lucky Duck Bean Bag Tournament champs - the Byers family. Pastor Mark gave a special thank you to those who helped him move his parents. He is volunteering (preaching) once a month at the Highland Senior Center. He will be starting a Book Club for the church to explore issues in depth.

Pastor Mark requested the council read "Religious Liberty in Crisis" by Ken Starr. He has a copy that can be borrowed. We need to be aware of how we would handle transgender issues and understand legal issues for hiring and teaching. We will also want to make sure our definition of marriage is included in the constitution and by-laws. Sarah shared that our insurance company has offered a free legal review of our by-laws. Faye moved that we have the insurance company review our bylaws, Chris seconded. The motion carried.

Maintaining membership rolls – we should be proactive in checking in with those who stop attending, and then moving them to the inactive list if they do not want to continue with us. They would then be removed from membership after a specified period of time.

Pastor Mark said he is getting ready for confirmation. Confirmation Sunday will be Oct 27th. There will be 10 confirmands this year. There are 7 adults in membership class. He has been doing shut-in and family visits and did 1 hospital visit.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: Trunk or Treat will be offered again this year on October 26th. The hours will be from 1 to 3 this year. Amanda is looking for volunteers to volunteer their trunks and for setup.

Old Business

Ministry Team Reports

- *Children's (Renae):* They discussed Sunday School. She taught the first day - it went well.
- *Congregational Life (Pam)* – Faye will check into getting mugs to give to visitors and new members. Pastor and Sarah are checking if the 17th of November will work for Johan & Sonya Hinderlie to do their presentation.
- *Finance & Management (Joe)* – did not meet. Deb Colombe picked up a bat house that will be installed.
- *Mission & Outreach (Tom)* – Tom moved that we donate \$500 each to Mt Carmel and World Mission Prayer League. Steve T. seconded. The motion carried. Faye passed along a Bible idea received from David Maier to Tom to take to the committee.
- *Worship & Prayer (Faye)* – already covered earlier in the meeting.
- *Youth & Family (Renae)* – The youth computer needs to be updated, the memory is full. Cheryl Rioux will be asked about upgrading the computer. Youth group started last night and went well.

Youth Director Offer – The compensation package was reviewed: \$40,000 Base Salary, \$1,000 Pension, \$1,000 Continuing Education, \$3,060 FICA & Withholding, 3 weeks vacation including 3 Sundays, and 1-to-1 Comp Time after mission trips or retreats. The Call Committee met, they have a candidate they want to offer the position to. The Call Committee talked about getting her some theological training. A full-time position will be offered. Faye moved to offer the youth director position to Heather Byers, pending background check, at the compensation package proposed. Renee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business

Employee handbook – It was pointed out that we don't have an employee handbook. Chris and Jim will work on putting one together. Job descriptions for all employees will need to be included.

Employee reviews – Pastor Mark will do with all of the employees. The council went over the evaluation form that will be used.

Safety Deposit Box – Jim Nelson and George Sandy are still listed on the safety deposit box. This needs to be updated. Tom moved to remove Jim Nelson and George Sandy from Safety Deposit box signature card and to authorize Sarah Kalkbrenner and Faye Sandy as signers on the safety deposit box. Joe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Credit card – Faye and Sarah got a credit card application from the bank. It was passed on to Joe so the finance committee can complete it and decide which card to apply for.

Steve Tschida will open with prayer at the next meeting. Chris moved to close the meeting, Howie seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.