



June

June 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...

Summer Plans

"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help com? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1

Summer Plans. School's out and the weather has finally warmed up. It's time to think summer sports, swimming lessons, weekends at the cabin, and travel plans.

Some of my favorite childhood memories include fishing trips to the Flin Flon, Manitoba area in search of northerns and walleye. It was a long trip in a big Pontiac with mom & dad up front and us 3 boys crowded in the back. To me it was an adventure. But, to my parents it was a trip that came with concerns about the car's dependability, boating safety, first aid (like the time one of us got snagged by a fishing lure), and all kinds of other things that parents try to be ready for.

Our Security. Psalm 121 begins with the question of an anxious traveler. Whether on a trip or the daily journey of life, we often wonder how it will all turn out. But the Psalmist reminds us that our help and security is found in the Lord; that we have nothing to fear. Like the Psalmist, we are invited to confess our faith in the living God and then to live by that confession – to put our trust and find our security only in Him.

Journey of Life. Psalm 121 is the Bible's way of saying, "Don't worry, be happy. Enjoy your trip." In verses 7-8 of this Psalm, we read,

"The Lord...will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore," (vv. 7-8).

The writer, James Limburg, points out that the phrase "going out and coming in" refers to all the activities of one's daily life. So there's nothing to worry about – God has you covered not just for a trip, but for the whole journey of life.

Sometimes "not worrying" is easier said than done. About the whole issue of worry, Martin Luther wrote that not worrying "is called the skill and ability of Christians before all others on earth. They know where to put and to lay their care..." (from "What Luther Says," p. 1544). We, as Christians, know "from whence our help comes."

So keep the faith and be intentional in keeping the sabbath day holy. Enjoy your summer plans, and trust the Lord in all that you do throughout your journey of life.

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

President's Message

Greetings Family of Faith,

May was a busy month for Bev and I. We celebrated a number of things and took time to remember those who have gone before us.

Mother's Day brunch at Coyote Moon is always fun (and delicious). Next, we were blessed to attend our grandson Nick's confirmation in Ohio on 19 May. When we, and other family members, placed our hands on Nick as he was confirmed, we knew the faith we hold dear was being passed on. A time of change in his young life and a time of hope that he will continue to grow in his own faith. The following day we celebrated Bev's birthday. (If you want to know how old she is, you will have to ask her because I'm not saying.)

All good things to celebrate.

On Memorial Day we took time to remember and reflect on the sacrifice of so many. They died to keep us safe; to keep us free; to do what they could to make us a better nation. Sadly, too many Americans seem to have forgotten the reason for Memorial Day. For many, it is just a three-day celebration. It isn't just veterans we honor on Memorial Day. It's also all those who supported those veterans; the intrepid pioneers who helped make America a place of opportunity; our own relatives who shaped our destinies. We honor them all. It is my prayer that the things we do in our daily lives bring honor to those who have gone before us. Let us never forget them.

Let us also never forget that Christ sacrificed His life, willingly, to save us. He changed us and the world. What once was hopeless, dark, and meaningless is now just the opposite, Thank You Lord. We can now walk with strength and courage knowing Jesus is always by our side.

The seasons change; life experiences change us; our hopes and dreams may change, but one thing never changes - God's love for us. What a comfort that is.

God bless you.
Howie

Finance & Management Team

The team met Thursday, May 9 for the scheduled quarterly meeting.

- **Church Security**—discussed options for church security during non-Sunday morning hours. Made a recommendation to the council regarding locking the doors and using the phone system.
- **Parking Lot**—Discussed a couple of options regarding the parking lot cracks. George Sandy is getting a couple of quotes on this.
- **Dishwasher**—Dishwasher leaks after use if water is not turned off to it. Roger Fernelius has identified parts/prices to fix. Joe Hyatt will see if he can fix this.
- **Columbarium**—Discussed the need for a group or committee to be formed to come up with policies around the columbarium use and any issues related. (Who can we use? Can we find someone to sandblast memorial bricks? If we have issues with nameplate do they all need to be alike? Etc.)
- **North Doors in the narthex leaks**—door has had issues in the past, have tried a few fixes. Thinking north winds blow rain under the door, may need a better sweep on the bottom of the door?
- **Clean flower beds around the church**—Thank you to Chris Scholl and Cheryl Rioux for cleaning out the weeds one evening!
- **Clean out and organize the church garage/shed**—Thank you to Tod Tonsager and Loren Klein for doing this!

Children's Ministry Team

Summer is HERE!!

Sunday School will be on break until September. We had a great Sunday School year— Thanks to all the volunteers that made it happen!



Sunday School Input: This year the Children's Ministry Team changed things up and held Sunday School during service. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes and share your thoughts and input by filling out a brief survey. There will be a paper copy at church this Sunday. However, if you would like to fill this out in advance, you can follow the QR code to do so. Thank you for your time.

VBS will be at Alliance church this year and will be June 3-7, 9am-12pm.

The Children's Ministry Team will meet Sunday **June 9** at 8am—we will be discussing the VBS week and looking at the survey - to make our best decision about Sunday School next fall.

If you are interested in joining our team, feel free to join us at our next meeting!

Have a great summer!!

Mission & Outreach Team

The Faith Lutheran Mission & Outreach Ministry Team added one unbudgeted item to the list of donations approved by the team at its May 14 meeting. A \$500 donation was made to Adventures in Mission on behalf of Faith Lutheran member Sarah Wolbeck for her mission trip to Indonesia coming up this summer. In addition, the team approved \$500 donations to two local missions—Hands of Hope Resource Center and Kinship of Morrison County—and a \$1,000 gift to Operation Heal Our Patriots.

The mission team is also working on developing a *mission trip policy* and a *mission trip form* to provide guidance with respect to Faith funding of various ministries. Anyone with opinions or ideas and how to evaluate which ministries receive Faith funding are invited to contact George Sandy or any member of the team. Two final activities that were held at Faith in April were the workshops on Gender and Sexuality, at which the mission team provided pizza, and the Art of Marriage video event, which was held in the church sanctuary.

Finally, any Faith member who would like to recommend a mission or ministry that Faith should support is invited to contact team members.

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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April Council Minutes

May 16th, 2024 (6:30 pm)

Present: Pastor Mark Johnson, Tom Lippert, Faye Sandy, Chris Scholl, Renae Stueber, Pam Trang, Joe Hyatt, Michael Johnson. Special guests: Amy Kowalzek, Noel Guerard, Julie Shelstad

Faye Sandy called the meeting to order. She opened the meeting with prayer.

The council spoke with Alex Trueman from Verizon via phone about their request to lease land from the church for a cell phone tower. He shared information on the rental income being offered and contract length. Amy Kowalzek shared information about zoning requirements. Alex stated it would take 3-6 months to get regulatory approval from the FCC and FAA. If approved, construction wouldn't begin until after the ground thaws in 2025. A lease would need to be executed before regulatory approval could be sought. Amy stated that installation of the tower could result in a change in classification of that part of the property that could result in a property tax obligation. She will check on that for us. Faye Sandy has done some checking into income tax implications. Further research will be done and presented to the council.

Noel Guerard and Julie Shelstad spoke to the council about their research into current worship songs from Hillsong/Bethel Music. He feels, from his research, that the songs themselves are biblical. The band members do individual research on the songs. The Worship Team will continue to evaluate songs based on if they sing the Bible.

Secretary's report: There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Joe Hyatt moved to accept the minutes, Renae Stueber seconded.

Treasurer's report: Joe Hyatt shared the Finance report. The General Fund is looking good, The Reserve Fund is a little off, he will check with Sarah about it. We had a good month for revenues, \$40,074. Revenues year-to-date are \$117,503. This was under budget by \$4,104. Actual expenses year-to-date are \$89,856; budgeted expenses year-to-date are \$103,701. We are in the green for the first time this year. Tom Lippert moved to accept the report as presented, Chris Scholl seconded. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mark shared the dates he will be working remotely this summer to help with his parents. He thanked the Sunday School teachers and youth group volunteers for their service, and Joe for covering for him for the two Wednesdays he was gone. He updated the council on pastoral visits he has made.

Ministry Volunteer Coordinator Report: nothing new to report

Old Business:

Ministry Team Reports

- Children's (Mike Johnson): Volunteers are still needed for VBS. A survey was passed out last week about scheduling for Sunday School for next year. Results aren't back yet. They will use FaithWeavers curriculum next year. A string art decoration will be done in one of the Sunday school rooms.
- Congregational Life (Pam Trang): \$2,176 was raised at the garage sale. 10% of this goes to mission. This amount does include some cookbook sales. Justin Juelke spoke with the committee about holding a midsummer outdoor service. The committee liked the idea of a Sunday service outside on the lawn where everyone would bring their lawn chairs and blankets. Justin will continue to research this.
- Finance & Management (Chris Scholl):
 - ◇ Small Group Security – if doors are to remain locked during small group meetings, we would need to determine where phones should ring in case of an emergency, etc. The phones in the library and kitchen would need to be programmed; there would be a charge for that. Pastor Mark suggested that people call the cell phone of the person in charge of the meeting. Joe Hyatt shared the committee's thought was that people would call the church number and that after three rings the calls would ring to the library, kitchen & office.
 - ◇ Parking lot cracks – George Sandy will let us know what the price would be to fix the cracks in the parking lot.
 - ◇ Carpet cleaning – the committee thinks the carpet is looking good and won't need to be cleaned for a while.
 - ◇ Dishwasher – Joe Hyatt will take care of the leaky dishwasher.
 - ◇ Sprinkler pipe corrosion – this is being tabled for now.
 - ◇ Columbarium – committee discussed creation of Columbarium committee. Faye Sandy will check with Howie to see if there are any guidelines already in place.
 - ◇ The flower beds were cleaned.
 - ◇ New chair fund was started – people will be able to donate towards the purchase of new sanctuary chairs.
 - ◇ Safes – Sarah Kalkbrenner requested a safe that would tuck under the counter. A representative from the Safe company recommended that a safe should be stored where it's not visible, for security reasons. A safety deposit box was suggested as an alternative.
- Mission & Outreach (Tom Lippert): Tom Lippert moved to approve a donation of \$500 to Adventures in Missions for Sarah Wolbeck. Mike Johnson seconded. The motion passed.
- Worship & Prayer (Pastor Mark) The committee discussed music selection and holding an outdoor summer service.
- Youth & Family (Faye Sandy): the search for a youth pastor continues. The committee discussed youth fundraisers. Pastor Mark complimented those who organized the fun night for kids this week – Isaac really enjoyed it. We appreciate all of the work Joel Hanson has done with the youth. Faye will check into advertising for a youth pastor on LinkedIn.

Attic Cleanup – Tod Tonsager has started to clean the shed. Attic cleanup will be addressed after the shed is cleaned out.

Bank Accounts – Chris Scholl checked with MMFCU re business accounts. Income on them is only .5%, so no change will be made to our bank accounts at this time.

Joe Hyatt moved that we adjourn the meeting, Tom Lippert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Pam Trang, Council Secretary

Attendance & Offering

May	5:	135	\$ 5,614
May	12:	169	\$ 5,072
May	19:	136	\$ 3,802
May	26:	127	\$ 4,730
Church Mortgage			
Balance: \$170,646			