



# Newsletter

May 2015

*take up the shield of faith* Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate . . . .

## Stand Firm

Our congregation was born out of disciples of Jesus Christ who were willing to take a stand on the authority of Scripture. For many this meant taking the painful step of leaving behind a congregation that no longer submitted to the Word of God. When we formed we knew that we were entering into the spiritual warfare that St. Paul writes about in Ephesians 6:

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore...*

The forces of evil would have us embrace if not bless what the Bible calls sin or face punishment. We can love the sinner (and we are all sinners) and we can forgive sin, but we cannot condone much less bless or celebrate sin.

In a recent article by conservative commentator Erick Erickson titled "The End Game Becomes More Clear," he writes about what is at stake in the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning gay marriage. He has been following the oral arguments and states: "What became obvious was that legal recognition of gay marriage is not the end game for the militant gay rights movement. Christianity itself must be made to care. Churches, religious private schools, private universities, and charitable organizations will be forced to give up their tax-exempt status or embrace Sodom writ large. President Obama's Solicitor General all but admitted it to the Supreme Court. Justice Alito directly asked Solicitor General Verrilli if Christian organizations would lose their tax-exempt status if they refused to recognize gay marriage. Verrilli replied, "It's certainly going to be an issue."

It has already been made an issue for many family businesses who have been fined or put out of business for standing firm in their faith. We cannot be deceived into thinking that true Christian churches, schools and organizations will be allowed to continue to express their beliefs publically if the U.S Supreme Court rules in favor of gay marriage. Again, St. Paul warns us in 2 Timothy 3:12-13, "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."

There have been revivals throughout the history of God's people, where after recognizing their sin they turned back to God. As the Church, the Body of Christ, we have to confess that we have not honored marriage. "Let marriage be held in honor among all." (Hebrews 13:4) We have contributed to the breakdown of family and put our selfish desires before the needs of our families. "Judgment begins with the household of God." (1 Peter 4:17) Now is the time to turn back to God. Now is the time to stand and honor our marriages, to stand and honor our families, to stand and honor the freedoms for which our veterans fought and many gave their lives, and to stand firmly in God's Word!

Standing in Faith,  
Pr. Nate Bjorge

## Take Note . . . . .

*Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church; it is a goodly Christian weapon.  
-Martin Luther*

## President's Message –

Members of Faith Lutheran

Nearly everyone has enjoyed a yummy bowl of vanilla ice cream. It is a wonderfully delicious desert. Let's start out with a little history:

Until more recent times, Mexico was the only producer of vanilla. In the 1520s, a man by the name of Hernán Cortés traveled down to Mexico and loved vanilla.

So, he brought some back with him to Europe. For the next 300-years, the Europeans tried, but were never able to produce vanilla. See, vanilla grows up a tree as a vine. Eventually the vine produces an orchid. In order to make the vanilla bean, the orchid must be pollinated. The problem is, it only blooms one morning per year to be pollinated. If it isn't pollinated within 12-hours, it withers. To make things more difficult, a hood-like membrane covers the part of the vanilla orchid that produces pollen. This makes the production of the vanilla bean very difficult. In 1836, Charles François Antoine Morren traveled down to Mexico to figure out why they weren't able to produce vanilla beans anywhere in Europe. As Morren was studying the vanilla orchids, his attention was drawn to a little bee, the Mexican Melipona Bee. This bee landed on the orchid, lifted up the little hood-like membrane, collected pollen, and then flew off to the next flower. This bee was pollinating the orchids. After some time, the orchid produced a vanilla bean. To this day, the Mexican Melipona Bee is the only insect that knows how to pollinate the vanilla orchid.

Without the Mexican Melipona Bee, we simply would not have vanilla today. The bee and the vanilla vine had to be made at the exact same time. Also this bee had to be given specific information about how to pollinate the vanilla orchid. Again, no other insect knows how to do this.

This bee had to be made, designed, and purposefully created to pollinate the vanilla orchid, and thus, produce vanilla. So much of our world points to the Creator. As silly as it may sound, even vanilla ice cream proclaims the glory of God.

So, the next time you sit down to a bowl of vanilla ice cream, remember that you are enjoying a tasty treat, which is only possible through the power of God!

Everything is the way God intends for it to be, we just have to figure out where we fit in and what is our part of the plan. That may be difficult, but the part I know for sure is that God loves me and will never abandon me.

Faith President,  
Mark Whittington

## Attendance & Offering

April	5: 301	\$ 7,888
April	12: 191	\$ 4,480
April	19: 184	\$ 4,296
April	26: 177	\$ 4,770

### Note:

No reports this month from  
Facilities and Maintenance Team,  
Mission and Outreach Team and  
Youth and Family Team

## News from the Congregational Life Committee

### Following the April 2015 meeting

*1 Corinthians 2:9-16, "However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him," but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him. In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the Spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."*

When I look at our "church" meaning God's chosen people, (which we are) I know that we are led by the Spirit and we have the mind of Christ. Every aspect of our church is bathed in prayer and we diligently ask for the Spirit of God to lead and guide us.

We have had the opportunity to use our new tablecloths. The first time was for Jim Kalisch's funeral. This I say as we grieve the loss of Jim Kalisch. He was so faithful in every aspect of our work here in the Little Falls Community. However, God had plans for him and now he is experiencing all that God has prepared for those who love him.

We also used the new tablecloths for our first "High Tea." It was a lovely event and a great fund raiser for the Jamaican Mission and Resilient Uganda.

A special thank you is extended to Noel Guerard for the wonderful tablecloth rack that he made for us to store the tablecloths on. Take a peek in our kitchen pantry to see it.

We had a reception for 14 new members on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This was an exciting day. Please take the time to make all these people feel welcome and needed in our church family.

Coming very soon in May we will have our annual Garage/Bake Sale. Please consider how you might help us make this a success. We will need lots of workers and bakers.

Also coming in May will be our graduation reception and the Sunday School picnic. More information on this will follow soon.

We have a committee working on a "Faith Lutheran Cook Book." You will be asked soon to contribute all of your favorite recipes. We need EVERYONE to contribute.

How precious it is for us who gather at Faith Lutheran to study God's Word and be about God's Work. Jesus meets with us whenever we get together. No fees. No scheduling conflicts. No travel expenses. Furthermore, we have the Holy Spirit to guide our understanding. God wants us to have the mind of the Author (1 Cor. 2:16) so that through the teaching of the Spirit we will comprehend the greatness of the gift He has freely given us. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Thanks be to God!!!

Until next time, Patricia Fernelius for the Committee

## Mission Statement

As Children of God, we are called to love, glorify and submit to the Living Christ, ministering to others by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



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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**Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
6:00 p.m. April 16, 2015**

Present: Mark Whittington, Pat Rioux, Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Al Bauman, Howie Larsen, Maureen Miller, Tom Lippert, Rich Collins, Pr. Nate, Tracy Marcus, Dave ZumBerge  
Absent: Jason Leibold

**Treasurer's Report:  
as of March 30, 2015**

<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS YTD</b>	
Income .....	27,520.32
Expenses .....	21,126.24
Adjusted Net Income after total other expenses .....	6,394.08
 <b>BALANCE SHEET YTD</b>	
Total Current Assets .....	89,454.13
Total Fixed Assets .....	1,325,590.49
Total Assets.....	1,415,092.35
Total Liabilities.....	750,360.47
Total Equity.....	664,731.88
 Gen. Checking Balance available for operations .....	
	29,998.57
DESIGNATED Savings .....	4,703.70
Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal .....	25,020.64
Park. Lot/Landscaping Fund .....	14,826.80

The meeting opened with devotions led by Pastor Nate. Tom Lippert moved and Al Bauman seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Noel showed council the first quarter figures which were in line with budget expectations. Pat Rioux moved with Tom Lippert seconding the motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor will be speaking at Teen Challenge in Brainerd, April 16, 2015. The planned Noah's Ark trip is full with 21 youth and adults signed up. The trip will take place July 25 to July 31. Another youth lock-in is tentatively being planned for the last Sunday in May. New members; Dean and Sherry Bigalke, Justin, Kimberly and daughter Avery Juelke, Dennis Myers and Roxanne Wyatt, Kristina Vonberge and daughters, Joe Kieffer (husband of Ali Ottman Kieffer), and Patty Srur and daughter Ashley and son Dylan will be welcomed during worship service April 19.

**Old Business:** Roadside cleanup will take place Tuesday, April 21, with lunch afterwards hosted by Lyle and Cathy Frerichs.

**New Business:** Maintenance of the table cloths will be the responsibility of the group using them. Room darkening blinds will be ordered for the library with the existing blinds in the library being installed in the Sunday School rooms. Funds for the new blinds will come from the Thrivent rebate account. Tom Lippert so moved with Pat Rioux seconding the motion, which was accepted.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will take place at Alliance church July 14, 15, 16, using materials with the theme Son Spark Labs. Living Hope will join with Alliance and Faith in VBS participation. May 17 will be the last day of Sunday School. Maureen Miller submitted a Missions Team request for \$500 to be given to the Morrison County Chaplaincy. Pat Rioux so moved with Dave ZumBerge seconding. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Council meeting is May 21, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Zarns, Council Secretary

## Children's Ministry

Another school year is winding down already! It's very hard for me to believe how fast this time God gives us goes by, years fly by, children grow up in the time it takes me to only get three years older!

Anyway, the last day of Sunday School is scheduled for May 17th. Our church is blessed with VERY dedicated, wonderful people to teach our children and adults how to follow Jesus and about his love for us. This year they've been Ann Guerard, Lori Turkowski, Kathy and Adam Hyatt, Patricia Fernelius and Orrine Hanson. Others have helped or offered to help when they wouldn't be able to. They are Sheila Biniek, Joan Novak and Jason and Tammie Liebold. There may also be others, you know who you are if you've been missed. A big thank-you goes out to these wonderful volunteers, please thank them for their service and dedication when you see them.

As mentioned before, Bible School planning has started. It will be held July 14th thru the 16th at Alliance Church. It will be Gospel Light's "SonSpark Labs" where children will learn God's plan for the people of His planet! They'll discover that God loves them and that through Jesus they can be members of God's family, that he's with us, has enacted a plan to save us and will love us forever. Please mark this on your calendars and consider helping with this ministry. There will be opportunities preparing beforehand and in music, arts, storytime and with snacks. Watch for an opportunity to sign-up in the near future!

Children's Ministry Team

### Worship & Prayer Ministry Team

Worship and Prayer Team Newsletter – May 2015

Greetings Faith Family! Over the last month, we were able to celebrate our 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday Service and Easter in our own church building. Easter turned out to be a full house with 301 people there to celebrate the Risen Lord Jesus!

Our Faith Family continues to grow with six new families joining us April 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Dean & Sherry Bigalke

Justin & Kimberly Juelke and daughter, Avery

Dennis Myers & Roxanne Wyatt

Kristina Vonberge and her daughters, Samantha, Brooklyn, Alexis

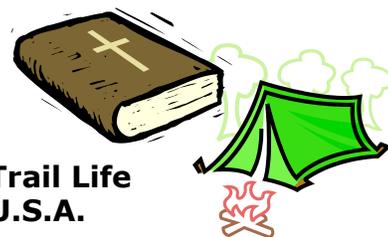
Joe Kieffer

Patty Srur and her children, Ashley, Dylan

We also wanted to let people know that we are changing up our communion line a little bit if you had not noticed the last couple of Communion Sundays. We added in another tray with only the grape juice so there was no confusion for guests of where their used communion cup would go if they took the grape juice. The empty cups will be first, then grape juice, communion assistant with wine and then the discard bowl.

We want to say thank you to all the people that help make each church service possible by serving to be an Usher, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Reader, Nursery Attendant, Part of the Praise Band or by bringing and serving refreshments for all to enjoy. If interested in helping out, please stop by the sign-up table and put your name down. If you have any questions or suggestions, please talk to one of our team members (Melissa Hanson, Amy Kowalzek, Sandy Berulson, Greg Hyatt). We love to see new faces stepping out and volunteering.

**No, in all these things  
we are more than  
conquerors through  
him who loved us. For  
I am convinced that  
neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor  
demons, neither the  
present nor the future,  
nor any powers,  
neither height nor  
depth, nor anything  
else in all creation, will  
be able to separate  
us from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.  
Romans 8:37-39**



### Trail Life U.S.A.

Faith Lutheran is the charter organization for Trail Life USA, a Christian scouting program for boys (K-12).

If you would like more information about Trail Life, contact Aaron Olson 632-8330