



September 2015 Newsletter

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate

Take Note

Sunday School
Begins
Sunday,
September 20,
10:15 a.m.

Confirmation
Classes Begin
Wednesday,
September 23,
7:00 p.m.

Imagine that after growing up in a home with your parents and siblings, your older brother when he is around thirty years of age begins preaching about the kingdom of God, and is even said to be doing miraculous things. I became a preacher around thirty years of age and even today the last thing that my siblings want to hear is me preaching to them. It is really no surprise that James could not accept this abrupt change in the life of his brother, Jesus. Jesus had been working as a carpenter like their father, Joseph, and now suddenly people were referring to him as a great teacher and even the Messiah. We all have a tendency to question abrupt changes in someone's life and lifestyle.

So what happened to James to make his own life change so dramatically? After all he became the leader of the church in Jerusalem and in his own words became "a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ." (James 1:1) Paul gives us a likely answer in his letter to the church at Corinth, when he writes that after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to James. (1 Cor. 15:7) Jesus' death and resurrection was and is the basis of James' faith, just as it is for our own faith.

James had received what he referred to as the "implanted word which is able to save our souls." (James 1:21) When the living and abiding word of God, the imperishable seed, has been implanted within us we experience a new birth. (1 Peter 1:23) James' life had been transformed and Jesus was no longer merely his half-brother, Jesus was his Lord and Savior.

During our Sundays in September we will be reading through the book of James, the letter that he wrote to the Jews who had come to believe in Jesus Christ. St Paul calls us to "examine ourselves to see whether we are in the faith." (2 Cor. 13:5) James' letter gives us an opportunity to examine our faith. James is very clear that if our faith is not being lived out in our actions then it is not true faith. "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22)

Working together in Faith!

Pr. Nate Bjorge

President's Message

Oh my Goodness! Summer is gone, Labor Day is just around the corner and cooler temperatures aren't far away. Hopefully, we have all had fun and good times during the summer, with picnics, fishing, boating, water skiing, golf or whatever your favorite things are to do during the warm months. Now it's time to get back to school, or whatever endeavor you are interested in.

Our world is beset with problems and issues that sometimes weigh us down. Remember that we were put here at this time and in these circumstances for a reason and a purpose. Our "job", if you will, is to determine what that reason and purpose is and apply that knowledge to our lives. With our belief in Jesus and our hearts pointed toward heaven, we will be led by the Holy Spirit to do what we need to make our world better. Believe it, count on it, act as though it is already here and see what wonderful things will happen.

God bless you all!

Mark Whittington, Council President

Attendance & Offering

August	2:	132	\$ 4,535
August	9:	180	\$ 4,180
August	16:	164	\$ 4,194
August	23:	178	\$ 3,007
August	30:	193	\$ 2,685

Children's Ministry

September 2015

Wow! Summer is already winding down again, and with it God reminds us everything must die in order to live again.

Sunday School preparation is underway. We're VERY thankful for those who've volunteered to teach, most having taught for many years! God is good! The following is our Sunday School teachers:

Preschool/Kindergarten -- Ann Guerard
1st/2nd Grade -- Heidi Larsen & Sheila Biniek
3rd/4th Grade -- Kathy Hyatt
5th/6th Grade -- Patricia Fernelius
Middle School -- Lori Turkowski
High School -- Kaj Bjorge

Sunday School will be starting September 20th. Please register your kids as soon as possible.

We're looking for people to volunteer in other capacities. First, we're looking for one or two people who'd like to take over the Sunday School Superintendent responsibilities. Second, there's some thought we'd like to begin Sunday School with about ten minutes of singing for the younger children. If you have any interest in seeing this happen and would like to help with leading music or playing piano or other instrument, please let any of us know. Some of the teenagers may like to help with this ministry. Lastly, we're looking for people who'd like to be a part of this ministry team. Many of us are nearing the end of our maximum two tenures of two years each.

Please prayerfully consider any of these opportunities. Have a blessed autumn!

Faithfully,

Children's Ministry Team

(Shannon Bjorge, Rich Collins, Mrs. Lyn Kull, Tracy Marcus, Kelly Olson and Leanne Wolbeck)

News from the Congregational Life Committee

Summer 2015

John 6:30-35 "So they asked him (Jesus), "What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life, he who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

When Jesus lived on this earth, he invited people to come to Him, and He still does today. But what do He and His Father in heaven have that we need?

Salvation: Jesus is the only way to have forgiveness of sin and the promise of heaven. "Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3: 15

Purpose: We are to give all of our heart, soul, mind and strength to following Jesus. "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me." Mark 8:34

Comfort: In trial or sorrow, the "God of all comfort...comforts us in all our tribulation." 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

Wisdom: We need wisdom beyond our own for making decisions. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God and it will be given to him." James 1:5

Strength: When we are weary, the Lord will give strength to His people" Psalm 29:11

Abundant Life: The fullest life is found in relationship with Jesus. "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10 Jesus said, "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" John 6:37 COME!

How can we grow closer to God today?

The very first step is to truly trust Jesus for the salvation that He has given us through Jesus and the Holy Spirit living within us. Then God gives us a purpose for that life. Our purpose is to follow where He leads us and obey his commands. As we follow God, he comforts us in trial and sorrow. We need to trust God for His wisdom in all that we do and say in our committees and in our entire lives. God gives us the strength to perform what He has called us to do and say. The abundant life will be ours as we follow in Jesus' steps.

Our committee took a short break during the summer but now we are ready to go ahead full steam for the fall season. We had a successful Brat Sale at Coborn's. Thank you to all who participated in that event. It went to help our youth and church.

Our Sunday School will begin fall sessions on September 20th. It is going to be a great day and this year the Jamaica team has asked our committee if they could sponsor this fun event. Please be faithful to attend and support them. You will have a great day.

Until next time,

Patricia Fernelius for the Congregational Life 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. May 21, 2015

Present: Al Bauman, Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Pat Rioux, Howie Larsen, Maureen Miller, Tom Lippert, Pr. Nate, Jason Leibold

Absent: Mark Whittington, Tracy Marcus, Dave ZumBerge, Rich Collins

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

Treasurer's Report:
as of April 30, 2015

PROFIT & LOSS YTD	
Income	24,236.18
Expenses	24,839.74
Adjusted Net Income after total other expenses.....	-603.56
 BALANCE SHEET YTD	
Total Current Assets.....	107,641.57
Total Fixed Assets	1,331,759.77
Total Assets	1,439,449.07
Total Liabilities	740,778.58
Total Equity	698,672.49
 DESIGNATED Savings	
DESIGNATED Savings	17,892.23
Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal.....	25,041.24
Park. Lot/Landscaping Fund.....	13,357.19

If you wish to reduce the debt of the WATER AND SEWER ASSESSMENT, please write 'water and sewer' on your giving envelope. The last Sunday to contribute will be October 11. Thank you! The church accounts were presented to council and the YTD figures balanced to the penny with Daven Hanson's report. Noel moved the mortgage principle funds given, \$2905.00, to the actual bank mortgage. There was a deficit of \$1500.00 from Noah's Ark trip due to the expense of an extra chaperone and the water park visit. Pat Rioux moved and Noel Guerard seconded to shift \$1,000.00 from Youth Trips to Youth Other and cover the rest from the General Fund. The motion carried. \$220.50 from the Coborn's brat sale will also reduce the trip deficit. The Finance Ministry Team suggested funding each child participant \$150.00 toward their expenses to help with fund raising for future trips. Maureen Miller and Noel verified that the monthly donations to the missions we support have been dispersed. Tom Lippert moved and Maureen Miller seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: On September 13, a representative from the Gideons will speak at Faith. There will be baptism at the end of August for Carly Fellbaum, daughter of Kennard and Laura. Pr. Juan Benito, pastor of the Nicaragua church we help support, will be attending the LCMC gathering and will also speak at Faith October 18, about the churches he pastors. Pastor Nate will have more information forthcoming about this fall's Sunday evening

Old Business: The Sunday School picnic, September 20, will be a fundraiser for the Jamaica Mission to be held in February 2016. The mission members will provide and cook the food. A free-will offering will be taken. Al Bauman announced there will be a columbarium presentation by Little Falls Granite Works after the September 20 service, prior to the Sunday School picnic. The Coborn's brat sale netted \$441.00 in tips and sales. \$220.50 will go to the landscaping fund and half to Noah's Ark fund. Tom Lippert reported that the irrigation system will begin installation Monday morning, August 24. Any use of the church facility and property must be passed through the council and council president prior to being allowed. Howie Larsen reported that the Faith cookbook proof has been sent back for printing and that he ordered 550 cookbooks for sale. Thank you to all committee members for your hard work in bringing our first Faith Lutheran Cookbook to fruition. The Father Daughter Ball, scheduled for February 28, 2016, will need many helping hands to succeed. A signup sheet will be passed around at church. Please consider serving on this important committee. Pastor will ask Cyndi Stanek to consider again taking pictures of Faith members for our upcoming new directory. We will create this in-house using the Servant Keeper program. As Mary Bye will be moving from the area, we are looking for a new part-time custodian. Please stop at the church office and pick up an application and job description. The position will remain open until filled.

New Business: A mission team request was made by Maureen Miller for a \$500.00 one-time donation to Morgan Trang for her "Teach Beyond China" mission. Pat Rioux so moved, Jason Leibold seconded, and the motion passed. On September 24, Faith will provide the meal for Oasis Share-A-Meal to be held at First Lutheran Church. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex. Howie Larsen moved with Al Bauman seconding that with funds donated by the Men's Breakfast Bible Study group, and with the help of Jason Leibold and his skid steer, volunteers will create and install a sand volley ball court just north of the Faith playground area. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Council meeting is September 17, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.
 Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Zarns, Council Secretary

Finance Meeting, August, 13th

Meeting Summary

In attendance were Jim Nelson, Tom Campbell, Tom Lippert, Daven Hanson, Julie Tonsager, Renee Miller, Noel Guerard, and Pastor Nate Bjorge. Enclosed are the notes.

Treasurers Report – Treasurer Noel Guerard reviewed the financials, - Noel's income matched Daven Hanson's reports- the financials were accepted as presented.

2. **Current Financial Reports Review-** by Noel

Mortgage Update,- an additional \$2905 of designated principal was paid

on 8/13/15. This additional payment will reduce remaining payments from 240 to 211 payments. This will result in a total mortgage reduction of \$6650 resulting in a net savings of \$3745.

Sewer Assessment- \$8755 collected and now in savings. This amount plus whatever additional comes in will be paid against our sewer assessment on Oct. 15th. This will reduce interest for 2016.

3. **Noah's Ark Account** – Account has negative balance after recent trip. Suggestion, - Church Council ask the youth group where the shortfall should come from. This discussion resulted in a motion by Julie Tonsager and a 2nd by Renee Miller to set a 2016 budget per participant for all future trips. Motion Passed. The general consensus of the group was a need to increase the budget for youth activities in 2016.

4. **Trail Life Group Renewal fee-** Motion by Tom Lippert and 2nd by Julie Tonsager to pay the \$280 troop renewal fee. Motion Passed

- Jim Nelson

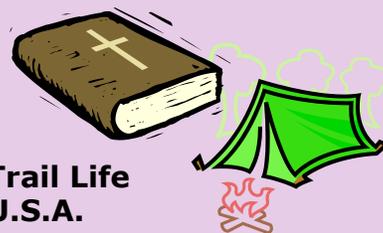
Next meeting set for September 10th

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the seas that is driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1: 2-6



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 (home) or 632-8806 (office) aarono@gmx.us

A Sunday morning adult education opportunity begins on September 27 following worship.

**“Without commitment, you cannot have depth in anything.” -Neil Strauss
For seven weeks we will showing sessions from the “I Still Do” marriage-strengthening conference.**

This will be a time during the Sunday School hour to invest in your marriage and family.

**I guarantee that that no matter where you are in your marital relationship you will find these sessions to be extremely beneficial!
Each session lasts approximately 40 minutes. Hope to see you there.**

-Pastor Nate