



MARCH



March 2018 Newsletter

take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate

Other than their super powers, what do most superheroes (we are talking D.C or Marvel comics) have in common? The answer is secret identities. We could also ask what many Christians have in common with superheroes. The answer might be the same. Many superheroes will hide their identities so that they can have a private or normal life and/or to protect their family and friends (think of Superman and Lois Lane). So why do many Christians keep their identity as followers of Christ secret from others? In some countries it may be to protect family and friends, but that would not apply in the United States. It is likely to protect oneself from ridicule or embarrassment, but certainly not to protect anyone's life.

In the Gospels, Jesus tells his disciples that they will deny Him, and Peter does so three times. They deny Jesus to protect themselves from being arrested and possibly suffering Jesus' fate. Even after Jesus' resurrection, we find the disciples hiding in fear behind locked doors. Their transformation from fearful to fearless does not appear to happen until they receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We read in Acts 4, that "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued (they kept on) speaking the word of God with boldness."

Paul writes, "that no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12:3) If a person believes in Jesus then the Holy Spirit dwells in this person. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you." (1 Cor. 3:16) However, we can also harden our hearts against the voice of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 3:7). Paul warns that we "do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thess. 5:19) So even as Christians we can seek to hide our identity as followers of Christ, fearful that displaying our faith publicly will bring ridicule and shame.

But our commonality with superheroes is not just secret identities, we also have extraordinary power when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul writes, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory." (Ephesians 3:20) We need to take these words to heart: God is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, ***according to the power at work within us.*** God can accomplish amazing things through our lives when we are "strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." (Eph. 6:10)

It is time to start living our true identity as children of God, as followers of Jesus Christ. There is no superman who can save the world. God sent His Son to do that. And God's plan and purpose for us is to witness to His love and salvation revealed through Jesus Christ. We don't need capes or costumes. God has given us His Word and Spirit. What we need to pray for is the courage and strength to stand firm in the faith. In the words of the hymn, "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore His sacred name."

Together in Faith,
Pr. Nate Bjorge

See page 3 for our
Lent and Easter
Worship schedule.

News from the Congregational Life Committee

Our team met Tuesday, February 6th.

We welcomed back Ally White and Rich Collins as our council reps for another year.

We are in the process of sending cards to college students and military people in our congregation.

Our team will be hosting the “senior luncheon” on Tuesday, March 20th. This lunch is held the third Tuesday of the month at noon. There is always good food, good fellowship and an interesting speaker. We encourage all “seniors” to attend.

The adult/teen challenge group will be coming to Faith on April 8th. There will be a brunch served after the service.

The wild game feed which usually takes place in January has been postponed until next fall, at which time it will be discussed again.

Another event coming up is the spring garage sale and bake sale. It seems early, however spring is right around the corner! We will discuss the date, etc. at our next meeting.

If anyone has questions, suggestions, or concerns about any events at Faith, please contact any of our team members:

Becky Boody, Beckie Ottman, Justin Juelke, Lois Erickson, Jody Cox, Julie Shelstad, Loni Pantzke, Jean Stowell, Bev Larsen, Rich Collins and Ally White.

Stay warm, stay well, and God’s blessings to you,
Bev Larsen for the team

Attendance & Offering

Week of February	4: 192	\$ 5,252
Week of February	11: 175	\$ 4,333
Ash Wednesday	14: 132	
Sunday, February	18: 143	\$ 4,489
Wednesday, February	21: 124	
Sunday, February	25: 133	\$2,886

Christ beside me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ within me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me.

Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick’s Day is March 17th.

We celebrate Saint Patrick’s day to commemorate Saint Patrick, a 5th Century Romano-British Christian Missionary and Irish Bishop. The symbol is a Shamrock or three-leaf clover because he is credited with teaching the Trinity using a shamrock, showing people how there are three leaves in one shamrock like the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

February 2018 Mission and Outreach Team News

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team met with its 2018 members and new council representatives at the team's meeting on February 7 meeting and also chose a new chairman for 2018. New council members are Randy Wolbeck and Joel Hanson. Pat Rioux accepted the position of team chair and Heather Klever agreed to serve as Mission and Outreach Team financial secretary. Other team members include: Bev Hinrichs, Linda Lippert, Kim Mielke and Maureen Miller. The team agreed to operate throughout 2018 with one member too many. Two members—Kim and Heather—will have served six consecutive years and will be leaving the team at the end of the year.

The team also re-authorized its annual \$500 donation to St. Paul Seminary at the February meeting as well. The \$500 donation was left off the 2018 budget. The team also received some initial information about the "Days for Girls" project. The project is one of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ's (LCMC's) focuses for 2018. The project provides some undergarments for girls in third world countries. The team will be receiving additional information prior to making a donation to the "Days for Girls" project.

The team approved Adult and Teen Challenge coming to Faith in April and the Mission and Outreach Team making a donation in addition to having a door offering on the day of the group's visit to Faith. The date chosen for their visit is April 8, 2018. Pat will submit the payment voucher in advance of Adult and Teen Challenge's April 8 visit.

Team members also discussed the ongoing mistaken assumption that the Mission and Outreach Team primary makes donations to international and national ministries. Team members talked about the wide range of local and regional ministries that the team/Faith has historically supported including Kinship, the Little Falls Area Ministerial Association, Oasis Share-A-Meal, New Pathways, Beginning Experiences, Community Thanksgiving Meal, etc.

In old business, the team noted that a total of 12 representatives from Faith signed up to go to Sunbeam Boy's Home from February 10-18. Tom and Linda Lippert are traveling to Guatemala later this spring assisting with both the medical mission and the stove project, which Faith has supported. Pat noted that comments on the church survey are still be transcribed. The strategic planning committee will be discussing next steps as soon as the written comments are transcribed.

Finally, OSAM will be coming to talk to the team about some local interest in developing housing for the homeless. A tentative speaker is planning to come to worship service on March 7. In addition, Pat was asked to find out options in regard to advertising on the Word FM radio station. Pat will find out costs associated with such advertising.

As always, congregation members are welcome and encouraged to provide the names of organizations/ministries they would like Faith to support to Mission and Outreach Team members.

Note:
**No reports this month from
Children's Team, Finance Team
or Youth Team**

Lent Schedule

Wednesdays, February 21-March 21

6:00 p.m. Lent Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. Lent Worship

Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 30: Good Friday

12noon Good Friday Community Worship
(at Living Hope)

Sunday, April 1: Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Easter Worship

February Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, February 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Rich Collins, Kennard Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Denny Myers, Mark Pugh, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Ally White, Dave ZumBerge, Pastor Nate

Absent: Kelly Olson, Randy Wolbeck

The meeting was called to order by Rich Collins.

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Nate.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed and approved the Annual Meeting minutes. Justin Juelke moved and Joel Hanson seconded to approve the January Council minutes and the Council Organizational meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Cheryl Rioux will be looking over the accounts setup and trying to streamline the system so we can get more accurate reports. Ally White moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to accept the Treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Nate will be having a meeting with the Ministry Team chairs on Wednesday, February 21st. He intends to cover what their responsibilities are as the chairs including running meetings, spending from their budgeted funds and any other responsibilities they have.

Wednesday Lent worship will be lay-testimonies again. Pastor Nate has several people lined up but is still looking for a few more. Please prayerfully consider if you are called to share your testimony.

The First Communion class will be meeting for 3 Wednesdays beginning on March 14th. Pastor Nate will be sending an email to the families of 2nd graders. Their First Communion will be at the Maundy Thursday worship service on March 29th. Many older members have been sick so Pastor Nate has continued to do many visitations.

The Youth & Family Team will be having regular meetings again. They will be on the first Sunday of the month after worship beginning on March 4th.

Old Business:

Youth Minister Position: Dave ZumBerge moved and George Sandy seconded to have Pastor Nate post the job description that was approved by the Youth & Family team and to begin seeking candidates. Motion carried. The focus will be on the right candidate, not on a specific time line.

Copier: We have received a few estimates from our copier company for pre-owned copiers. The council looked them over and delegated the Finance team to make a decision regarding the copier.

New Business:

Introductions and Welcome: Rich Collins introduced the new Council members and welcomed them to the Council.

Mission Team: St. Paul's Lutheran Seminary budget was erroneously set to \$0. This is an LCMC Seminary that Faith Lutheran has supported in the past. The Mission team would like to send them \$500 in 2018. George Sandy moved and Cheryl Rioux seconded to add \$500 to the Mission team budget for St. Paul's Lutheran Seminary in 2018. Motion carried.

Minnesota Adult & Teen Challenge: The Mission team have scheduled MN Adult & Teen Challenge to be here on April 8th. The Congregational Life Team will look into planning brunch to share with them.

Authorized Account Access at Bank: The bank needs to be notified of changes to the Council and those who are now authorized to sign for the church accounts at the bank. Joel Hanson moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to add Rich Collins, Council President, George Sandy, Council Vice-President and Cheryl Rioux, Council Treasurer to the authorized signers and removed Randy Wolbeck, Jason Leibold and Justin Juelke. Motion carried. Sarah will prepare the letter to be taken to the bank in regards to this and call them to make an appointment.

Handicapped Parking: Several members have mentioned that we don't have enough handicapped parking spaces. The council will observe to see that the handicapped spaces are being used appropriately. Then, if more spaces are needed, will look into adding additional spaces. A reminder to park further back if you are able-bodied will be added to the projection.

Snow Plow/Lawn Mowing gifts: Lyle Frehrichs has been plowing snow and Gary Berulson has been doing our lawn mowing since the church was built. Pastor Nate recommends we get them each a gift card as a way of saying thank you for all their hard work. Ally White moved and Denny Myers seconded to get them each a \$75 gift card to Cabin Fever. Motion carried. Pastor Nate will pick these up and distribute them.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place March 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

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

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