



May



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

May 2018 Newsletter

From Pastor Nate

*Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to them,
and to which God has called them. -1 Corinthians 7:17*

On Sunday, May 20, we will honor our graduating High School Seniors: Erika Bassett, Ashley Biniek, Annika Bjorge, Tate Finck, Kendra Kull, Jasmine Miller, and Alaina Shelstad. They have been a valuable part of our family of Faith. It is always sad to see these young people leaving us as they prepare to move forward in their lives. On the other hand it is exciting to see where their paths will take them. We hope that we have helped them to establish a firm foundation. In the words of St. Paul, "You who have received Christ Jesus the Lord, live in Him, remain rooted and built up in Him and established in your faith." (Colossians 2:6-7) This is our hope and prayer for these graduates who have grown into mature young men and women.

Martin Luther taught us that whatever vocation we end up pursuing, we should see it as a calling from God. Luther used several Biblical passages to back up his teaching, including I Corinthians 7:17: "Only, let everyone lead the life which the Lord has assigned them, and to which God has called them." It is not always apparent what plans God has for his children. But God knows – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Luther reminds us that God gives us our daily bread through the vocations of the farmer, the miller, and the baker. Our labors or vocations should be viewed as gifts from God. Just as God is working through the vocation of others to bless us, He is working through us to bless others.

It does not matter to what vocation God calls us, we all have the opportunity to display and live out our faith as we use our God-given abilities. "Whatever you do, work at it with all of your heart, as working for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ that you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Sadly, we know that the majority of young people fall away from the church after High School. Our hope is that we will keep connected to our graduates and they will remain connected to the Church. And so I will close with St. Paul's words of encouragement for our graduating Seniors: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:14-15)

Together in Faith,
Pr. Nate Bjorge

President's Message

May God be with you all!

The church council met on April 19th, 2018 and covered a number of items.

The meeting was called to order with all council members present minus one. Sarah led the group in prayer. The first item discussed was the changing of the church financial accounting. Quick Books Plus will be used and online within a short period of time.

Pastor shared his thoughts with us on small group ministry. Small groups of congregational members would meet at an individual's home for ministry. Other churches have done this and it was well-received.

Youth Minister position was discussed and we will be meeting one of the candidates in May.

Discussion took place about re-finance of our mortgage.

Purchase of a new lawn mower was approved and thank you to the men's Bible Study group for sharing in that expense.

The Faith garage sale will be coming up within a week's time. Planning is going well but we still need volunteers to help with the sale. Sign-up sheets are available on the table in the gathering area.

Security team shared ideas to continue our level of security. One thing was possible installation of cameras outside and inside of church. Also, an evacuation plan is being worked on and needs to be posted in case of an evacuation. This is an ongoing project.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was discussed and plans are coming along very well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. The Lord's Prayer was said by all.

News from the Congregational Life Committee

Spring has arrived!! Thank God for giving us this beautiful season after a long snowy winter!

Our team hosted the senior luncheon in March. 27 people attended and we enjoyed listening to Annika Bjorge, Jasmine Miller, and Adam and Gene Hyatt talk about their trip to the Sunbeam Boys in Jamaica.

Our Easter breakfast is always a fun event, celebrating Easter Sunday and the good news of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Several of the youth helped serve this to earn money for their Noah's Ark trip this summer.

We hosted the Adult/Teen Challenge in April. It was a very meaningful service, with a brunch served after. We look forward to having them join us again.

May will be another busy month. Our garage sale and bake sale will take place Friday, May 4th and Saturday, May 5th. The garage sale will be both days with the bake sale on Saturday.

The Jamaica team will have a special bake sale too, to earn money for their next trip.

10% of the proceeds of the 2 day sale will go to missions, and the rest is undecided at this time.

We will also have the congregational/end of Sunday School picnic on May 20th.

If anyone has comments, suggestions, or questions about our team, please contact any one of us.

See you in church!

For the team,

Bev Larsen

Faith Worship Team

Faith Worship Team Meeting - Sunday, April 29, 2018 at Bjorges

Present: Kate Bjorge, Howie Larsen, Melissa Hanson, Kyle Christensen, Pr. Nate Bjorge, Justin Juelke, Julie Shelstad, Noel Guerard.

Kate opened with devotions and prayer, encouraging the team to consider three steps (from the book "Celebrations of Discipline" by Richard Foster): 1) Enter the space of worship (Sanctuary) mindful of entering the presence of God (throne room) and bring Him adoration and praise – let go of the mundane duties/routine and realize why we enter; 2) bring to light the faces of those who are leading worship: Pastor, worship band, scripture readers, sound and media techs, etc. and pray for them and 3) ask the Lord to show you faces of those worshipping in the congregations and intercede for them as you notice faces that are sad, heavy, lonely, worried, sick, weak, etc.

Congregational survey results (administered in December). The question(s) specific to worship style/preference and the meaningfulness of worship services at Faith Lutheran received a 3.7 (out of 4 as most satisfied). MOST people of all ages worshipping at Faith are highly satisfied with the blend of traditional hymns, modern worship songs.

Piano: discussion about the vision of purchasing a (used) baby grand piano with seed money from Erik Mathison memorials and donations during Lent (soup suppers) with the intention of placing the piano in the front (right) worship space. Keyboard would be used to fill in additional orchestration as needed since it has a variety of voices to add during worship. Discussion about utilizing the piano more for both youth and adults willing to provide prelude/special music. Also purchasing a plate to memorialize Erik Mathison as an important member of the worship/music ministry of Faith. Finally, a member suggested we look at a lock feature to prevent damage to the keys when not being used for worship/rehearsal. Goal = piano in place by fall (mid-Sept). If funds are needed a worship band member could share with congregation the vision and need during worship one Sunday.

ACTION: Team and others please **PRAY** for an instrument to become available within our budget and timeframe.

ACTION: Kate, Joan, Justin, Libby (if available) will continue to source piano options from area music stores (preference is to purchase from a music store, professional movers, tuner, etc.).

ACTION: Kate will find out the exact amount (Cheryl Rioux) in the piano fund.

Summer Worship Schedule – discussion about how to proceed. Since there is interest we will continue with Wednesday worship at 7:00pm – Worship band will meet at 6:00 p.m. for a run through/sound check (earlier only if going through new music). Pastor and team will evaluate after each month to determine if there is growing or decreasing interest and participation to make changes. Discussion about dates when Pr. Nate/Kate are unable to lead due to graduation/family conflicts, etc.

ACTION: Pr. Nate will check with other members to fill in on May 9 and 23rd.

ACTION: Kate will schedule band separately for Wed and Sun during summer months based on availability.

ACTION: Melissa/Amy will communicate regarding communion/altar guild needs and set up for summer (fresh baked loaf of bread will be provided by Bjorges for May 2 worship – communion).

Other (budget items, ministry ideas, needs, etc.): There was discussion about a Candlelight Song/Prayer ministry used to bless members (and as an outreach to unchurched) with a song and a prayer if struggling, homebound, etc. Could be interest among some (band, choir, etc.). Will act on the idea as God prompts us (places certain people on the hearts of others).

NEEDS: 1 new audio headset (hearing assisted), 9V batteries for guitar pick-ups, band will purchase their own strings, etc.

WANTS: 2019: wireless cord set up for guitar(s) to reduce cord traffic and allow greater mobility. Also – rechargeable batteries only if there is someone willing to manage battery charging/replacement. 1-2 floor monitors.

ACTION: Kate will find out remaining amount in Worship Team budget for 2018.

Summary submitted by Kate Bjorge ... for the team

Children's Team

Our team, Lisa Christensen, Kelly Olson, Kennard Fellbaum, and Annie Mathison, met on April 11, 2018, to discuss the last day of Sunday School for the 2017-2018 school year, our wrap-up teacher meeting, bulletin boards, and VBS that will be coming up in a little over a month.

The last day of Sunday School for the 2017-2018 school year will be on May 20, 2018, please help thank our teachers that day and join us for the Spring picnic.

To get input for next year, the team has decided that it would be a good idea to host a Sunday School teacher wrap-up meeting, which will be held, Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 6:30; we will be finished by 7:00 pm for members that would like to attend church. We are inviting any teachers, substitutes, or helpers from the 2017-2018 Sunday School team to attend and value your input.

Church council approved for the purchase of bulletin boards for the Sunday School classrooms, the team will research options and keep the total cost under \$300.

VBS planning is moving along smoothly, it will be held June 4-8, 2018, from 9-11:15 am at Faith Lutheran Church. Volunteer sign-ups are now out as well as donation slips, please sign up where your heart and God leads you. If anyone would like to make donations, grab a slip, purchase the item, and place the item in the VBS box in the kitchen. A huge thank you to Lisa Christensen for stepping in to go to the VBS meetings this spring!

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 6:30 pm, we are still looking for team members so feel free to join us.

Attendance & Offering

Sunday, April	1:	255	\$ 8,068
Sunday, April	8:	218	\$ 5,633
Wednesday, April	11:	35	
Sunday, April	15:	123	\$ 7,016
Wednesday, April	18:	38	
Sunday, April	22:	203	\$6,743
Wednesday, April	25:	26	
Sunday, April	29:	167	\$ 5,704

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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April Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, April 19th, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Rich Collins, Kennard Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Denny Myers, Kelly Olson, Mark Pugh, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Randy Wolbeck, Dave ZumBerge and Pastor Nate

Absent: Ally White

The meeting was called to order by Rich Collins and opening prayer was led by Sarah Kalkbrenner.

Secretary's Report: George Sandy moved and Joel Hanson seconded to approve the March Council minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: All the accounts are balanced this month. George Sandy moved and Joel Hanson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

We currently use Quickbooks Elite for our accounting. Cheryl Rioux recommends we move up to Quickbooks Plus to change how the entry is done and make it easier. Quickbooks Plus also has budgeting. This change would increase our monthly cost for Quickbooks from approximately \$27/month to \$50/month. Randy Wolbeck moved and Justin Juelke seconded to approve this additional cost and upgrade Quickbooks. Motion carried.

The Noah's Ark Trip fund has been running at a deficit leftover from the previous trip in 2015. George Sandy moved and Randy Wolbeck seconded to transfer money from checking to cover the deficit in this fund. Motion carried.

Cheryl Rioux also reported that we currently sit at \$21,372.78 Available for Operations.

Pastor's Report: We have made it through Lent and Easter. Confirmation will meet through May 2.

We now have a functioning Youth & Family Team. Greg Hyatt is the chair of that team.

Small Group Ministry: The strategic planning team has been discussing this. It's something they would like to implement starting this fall. They would train hosts to lead a short study which would be provided. Then 6 people or so would be invited to do the study together. This would bring ownership of the church to the people and help build relationships within the church.

Last day of Sunday School is scheduled for May 20. That weekend is also when the Youth Pastor candidate will be here. Saturday evening will be an event for the Youth and Sunday the congregation will be able to meet and talk with him. We will also have the Sunday School picnic that day.

Old Business:

Youth Minister Position: Greg Hyatt will pick up the candidate and his wife on May 19th from the airport. Pastor Nate and Kate will take them back on Sunday. If it goes well we would need a congregational meeting to make a decision about a job offer. We would need to give the congregation 10 days' notice so it would likely be scheduled for June 3rd. We may also have another candidate. Randy Wolbeck's cousin who is currently doing mission work in Germany. Nate sent him the job description and he will let us know if he is interested in the job.

Mortgage Refinance: Kennard Fellbaum has done some research on the Mortgage Refinance. He spoke with Pine Country Bank who currently hold our mortgage. Their representative, Tim, said there is no penalty to refinance early and there will likely be no additional fees if we decide to refinance through them. Kennard also spoke to John who now works at a credit union and he recommends we do a push to pay down our principal and then give the credit union a chance to give us a better interest rate. There will be some fees if we decide to leave our current bank. Nate also mentioned the option to refinance through Thrivent. Since there are several options and we do still have some time before a definite decision needs to be made, the council chose to delegate to the Finance Team to shop around for the best option for our refinance. George Sandy moved and Justin Juelke seconded to send the \$16,000 currently in the Mortgage Principal paydown fund to the bank toward our Mortgage Principal. Motion carried.

Lawn Mower Update: George Sandy and Chris Scholl have done research and found a new John Deere they would like to purchase from Midwest Machinery. The mower is a John Deere X-390 tractor with a 54" cutting width and will come with a 4-year bumper to bumper warranty. The Men's Bible Study breakfast group has agreed to put \$2000 of their money toward this purchase. The total purchase will be \$5000. George Sandy moved and Denny Myers seconded to purchase this mower from Midwest Machinery. Motion carried. Sarah will work with George to get our Tax-exempt paperwork and a Letter of Intent to Midwest Machinery.

New Business:

Mission Team Payment – Oasis Central Minnesota: The Mission team would like to send \$500 to the Oasis Central Minnesota project which helps provide temporary housing to the homeless. Dave ZumBerge moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to approve this payment. Motion carried.

Family Assistance Fund Disbursal: The Family Assistance Fund currently contains \$3,675. Denny Myers moved and Joel Hanson seconded to send this money to the Novak Family. Motion carried.

Faith Garage Sale: The Faith Garage sale will be Friday and Saturday May 4-5th this year. Generally, they split the money raised with 10% going to the Mission Team and the other 90% going elsewhere. Rich Collins reported, after speaking to Bev Larsen, that 10% will be going to the Mission Team and 90% will be going to the General Fund this year.

Sponsor Golf Club Extravaganza: Al Bauman requested that Faith would support the Little Falls Golf Club's Golf Extravaganza by sponsoring a hole this year for \$100. We have done this in the past as well. The council agreed to do this using the money in the advertising budget.

Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School will be at Faith this year June 4th through 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. The Children's Team would like to request that the security volunteers do some sort of security during these mornings. They had 140 children registered last year and expect at least as many this year.

Security Team Update: The security team reports that things are going well. Dave ZumBerge thanked the Finance team for their quick action last week when there was an incident with several vehicles making doughnuts in the parking lot. The Finance Team Members were able to delay the vehicles so they could not leave while police were called. Eventually the security volunteers would like to look toward getting equipment. In particular cameras and eventually electronic locks so we know who is coming and going. The security team will look into some cost estimates as this is something that will likely need to be budgeted in 2019.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place May 17th at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary