



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

September 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming...

Sunday School begins September 16th at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School Picnic September 16th at 11 a.m.

Youth Event: Confidence Course at Camp Ripley, September 16th 2-5 p.m.

Confirmation and Wednesday evening Youth Classes begin September 19th at 7:00 p.m.

From Pastor Nate . . . .

Living in the Midwest means taking summer vacations, or at least slowing down and finding some time to relax and enjoy the warmth of summer. Even in the church we tend to cut back on activities. But now as Labor Day approaches we are reminded of the importance of getting back into a routine and also the value of work.

We may not always be grateful for work, but we should understand that being created in the image of God entails that we will work. From the beginning in Genesis we read about God working in creation. Jesus worked as a carpenter and also sought to accomplish the work of God. After God created Adam, He put Adam to work in the garden.

Theologian Orville Dewey claimed that, "Labor is man's great function. He is nothing, he can do nothing, he can achieve nothing, fulfill nothing, without working. If you are poor—work. If you are rich—continue working. If you are burdened with seemingly unfair responsibilities—work. If you are happy, keep right on working. Idleness gives room for doubt and fears. If disappointments come—work. If your health is threatened—work. When faith falters—work. When dreams are shattered and hope seems dead—work. Work as if your life were in peril. It really is. No matter what ails you—work. Work faithfully—work with faith."

Luther taught us to view our work as vocation, or God's calling in our lives. To paraphrase Martin Luther, "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. God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does."

Even as Christians, we still have a tendency to want to divide our lives into sacred and secular realms. We tend to see our labor, whether it is our job, mowing the lawn, or changing a diaper, as secular tasks. But as Christians, Paul makes it clear that, "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) Remember Jesus' words, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) For Christians, there is no secular realm, everything has spiritual significance. What appears to be ordinary becomes extraordinary when done to the glory of God.

Hopefully we are ready to take up the work of the church as we begin our fall programming. We have a need for all types of volunteers, especially Sunday School teachers and people to help out in several areas with our Sunday morning worship. Where is God calling you to work?

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word." 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

In Christ, Pr. Nate Bjorge

# Faith Worship Team

## Faith Worship Team Meeting – August 6, 2018

*Present: Kate Bjorge, Noel Guerard, Sarah Kalkbrenner, Julie Shelstad, Lisa Christensen, Kyle Christensen, Justin Juelke, Tammy Skeesick, Howie Larsen, Pr. Nate Bjorge.*

Kate opened with a devotion – words of encouragement for worship leaders – and prayer.

**PIANO:** Kate received the total of the reserved “piano fund” which currently stands at \$6,472.20. Kate provided a summary of three different types of grand pianos (baby, medium and concert). There are used baby/med grand pianos in the \$5K-7K price range. There is a Boston brand (designed by Steinway) medium grand piano at PianoWorld in Plymouth which falls in the \$10K-\$15K range. Considerations were shared regarding long-range vision of the worship space, which piano would fit both spaces, current worship space is tight, sound quality, need to mic, etc.

**ACTION:** *Kate and Joan (and any others) will source piano options hopefully in August and bring a recommendation to the worship team. Team will then present to the congregation (and ask for funds if necessary).*

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE:** Team discussed the Wednesday worship services. Concerns were shared regarding the impact of: confirmation schedule and adequate time for Pr. Nate to teach, band rehearsal time reduced to accommodate worship time and low attendance. The service was originally thought to be an option for those who could not attend Sunday morning worship. Most attendees on Wednesdays already attend on Sundays. There was discussion about the opportunity to create a strategic marketing campaign to outreach in the community.

**ACTION:** *Team unanimously agreed NOT to proceed with Wednesday worship (until Lent season), rather to focus on outreach opportunities and improvements to Sunday worship.*

**ACTION:** *Wednesday rehearsals will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. beginning August 13.*

### **OTHER:**

**VOLUNTEERS:** There was discussion about volunteerism within Faith and the need to engage members to serve in much needed areas: nursery/childcare ministry, sound & media, children’s music/education ministry

**ACTION:** *Kate, Lisa and Sarah will work on a skit/video to bring awareness to the need and gain support for volunteers to serve in various ministries (late September). Consider sending separate volunteer sign up for childcare.*

**MEDIA & SOUND:** discussion about MediaShout6, use of background images/videos and also the need to get more sound (volume) in the back of the worship space.

**ACTION:** *Sarah/Kate will start using black backgrounds with white (or light yellow) text and re-try MediaShout6 (after updates are made and with the understanding there will be a backup cue in MediaShout4).*

**ACTION:** *Justin/Lisa will test the back speaker to face into the worship space/sanctuary.*

**BAND/WORSHIP SET UP:** There was discussion about the need to clean up the chords and reconfigure the band set-up, and also the current set up of the chairs makes it difficult for those sitting in the outer third on each side.

**ACTION:** *Noel will draft a design of how the chairs can be set up to foster community and improved visual to the front.*

**ACTION:** *Justin will find out when the chairs are stacked to clean the carpets and notify the team to set up a date (recurring monthly) to set up chairs and clean up chords by September 1.*

**FEEDBACK:** Team discussed the need to collect feedback regarding music, ministry ideas, etc. through a simple survey (1 yes/no question on the back of communion registration?). No Action discussed.

Summary submitted by Kate Bjorge .... for the team!

## Youth Team

This fall the Sr. High youth will begin a new Sunday school class, "God's Word as Our Foundation". We'll be studying topics like *God's Word in the Real World*, *Worldly Wisdom*, are things *Impossible for God?* . . . Parents, please encourage your son or daughter to attend as this material will benefit them as a spiritual springboard to their upcoming week as well as encourage and bless them. I would like to get started BY **10:15 a.m. sharp** so we can make the most of our time together. I am happy to meet with any parent who would like to take a look at the material and I welcome and covet your prayers as we begin this journey. Our youth are in a spiritual battle zone and I'm very blessed to be part of God's plan for their spiritual growth.

On Wednesdays we'll be going through the "Answer Book for Teens" from AIG (Answers in Genesis). Some topic examples are, "How can anyone believe that the Bible is true since it was written so long ago?" and "If God's so great, why does He let so much pain and bad stuff happen in the world?" and "Come on, why would God punish the whole world for one guy's mistake?" and many more questions thought of and asked by teens. Again, *parents please encourage your teen to attend*. Our lives are all so very busy with many commitments. Gathering with other youth from their Faith family & spending time investing in their hearts' and characters' futures will bring promised blessings of wisdom and encouragement. We plan to meet from 6:45-8:00 p.m. The first 15 minutes will just be a time of fellowship & snacks. We'll plan to begin our study at 7:00 p.m. I understand many kids will come from practice & have to figure out how to eat in between—that's why I'll make sure that there is something there each week to eat. If anyone would like to sponsor food/snacks for a Wednesday, please let me know. As with Sunday's material, I'm happy to meet with any parent who would like to take a look at the material.

I look forward to Wednesdays & Sundays being an integral part of their training to become stronger, bolder Christians that will possess the tools to find joy, even in the struggles & challenges of adolescence.

In July we made over \$600 on the car wash!! Thank you to everyone who supported this effort to raise money for the youth program. Afterwards we ate pizza and those who were able to spent the day on the lake, tubing and learning how to knee board. Well, some learned, or tried (right Tucker?), and some were just naturals (right Jenna? :) A ginormous "THANK YOU!" to the Hyatts & Kowalzek for their generosity in providing the boats & other equipment. The day was sunny and warm, partly due to weather, but also because it was just fun spending the day enjoying down-time with others from our church family.

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** (2:00-5:00pm) Faith youth 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate in the Confidence course at Camp Ripley. Dress appropriate for the weather. Kids can invite a friend. Let us know (myself or Greg) if your son or daughter wants to attend but needs a ride.

In His service,  
Becky

### Attendance & Offering

Sunday, August	5: 158	\$ 4,166
Sunday, August	12: 135	\$ 3,541
Sunday, August	19: 161	\$ 6,910
Sunday, August	26: 129	\$ 3,764

## 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**

303 18th St. SE

Little Falls, MN 56345

320-414-0533

faithlutheranlittlefalls.org  
secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com

## August Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

*Present:* Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Denny Myers, Kelly Olson, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Ally White, Dave ZumBerge and Pastor Nate

*Absent:* Rich Collins, Kennard Fellbaum, Mark Pugh, Randy Wolbeck

The meeting was called to order by George Sandy and opening prayer was led by Kelly Olson.

Dave ZumBerge moved and Ally White seconded to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Justin Juelke moved and Joel Hanson seconded to approve the May Council minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cheryl Rioux reported that we should be at 58% of our income budget for the year as we are 58% through the year. The General Fund is currently at 53% of our budget.

The \$588.65 remaining from the Garage sale will be reclassified into the Security Equipment fund.

Denny Myers moved and Justin Juelke seconded to approve the July Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried.

Ally White moved and Denny Myers seconded a motion to send \$1100 from the Family Emergency fund to Novaks now and an additional \$1100 in December. After discussion the motion was voted down. Justin Juelke moved and Dave ZumBerge seconded to pay the balance of \$2200 to the Novak family. Motion carried.

Sarah reported that we received a letter from our insurance company notifying us of a premium increase. As it will be less than \$20, no action will be taken.

Cheryl also noted that the Noah's Ark fund will be balanced after the next credit card statement as there are still outstanding receipts on the credit card.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Nate brought up a proposal to consider looking at a Volunteer Coordinator position for the church to help recruit and train volunteers for Ministry Teams and volunteer positions around the church. He asked the Council to consider this possible position.

### **Old Business:**

*Youth Minister Position:* The Youth & Family Team is active once more and will oversee this position as we move forward. The Wednesday evening Youth class will meet beginning on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

*Paintball Course:* The Youth Team would like to set up a paintball course and purchase equipment for 10 people. Joe Hyatt did research and found it will cost \$1400 for the equipment. An anonymous donor agreed to make up the difference between what is in the youth fund and the cost of the equipment. Denny Myers moved and Kelly Olson seconded to make the purchase from the Youth Fund for up to \$1600 with the understanding that additional costs will be covered by the anonymous donor. Motion carried.

*Mission Team Payment to Mission Aviation Fellowship:* The Mission team would like to send \$750 to the Mission Aviation Fellowship, a husband and wife team who fly Bibles to remote parts of the world. Justin Juelke moved and Joel Hanson seconded to send this payment of \$750. Motion carried.

*Children's Team – Sunday School Changes:* The Children's Team reports that all Sunday School Teacher positions are currently filled. They will be adding a music portion to the Sunday School program with the children staying in the sanctuary for music immediately following the worship service. They plan to begin Sunday School September 16<sup>th</sup> with the Sunday School Picnic.

*Charlie Erbstoesser Memorial:* The Charlie Erbstoesser family made a memorial donation to Faith. They requested that the Council use it where needed. Dave ZumBerge moved and Denny Myers seconded to use the \$575 toward the Building Principal fund as paying down our church mortgage was important to Charlie. Motion carried.

*Pass-Through Missions Account:* Cheryl Rioux requested permission to set up a pass-through Mission team account for donations that come through offerings so they would be removed from the Profit and Loss Statement, making it easier for the Mission team to track their income and expenses. Ally White moved and Joel Hanson seconded to allow the creation of a pass-through Mission account. Motion carried.

*Faith Scholarship:* An Anonymous donation was received toward the Faith Scholarship fund. Justin Juelke moved and Dave ZumBerge seconded to put this money toward Annika Bjorge's tuition costs at Concordia College, Moorhead. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary