



take up the shield of faith Ephesians 6:16

November 2018 Newsletter

All Saints'
Worship
Thursday,
November 1,
7:00 p.m.

From Pastor Nate

In 835 Pope Gregory IV established November 1 as All Saints' Day. The day was initially set aside to honor Christian martyrs, but since the time of the Reformation we honor all of those who in faith have gone to be with the Lord. Our memories and our love for those who are no longer physically present keeps us connected to them.

A few years before my mother was diagnosed with cancer she had given me a book, "I Love You Forever" by Robert Muench. I admit the book is a little silly with the mom crawling across her son's bedroom floor when he is asleep so she could rock him in her arms. And then when he is an adult, taking a ladder to his house so she can sneak in and rock him as she had done when he was a child. But the message cuts to the heart - it is the deep, unconditional love a mother has for her child. The mother would say to her son, "I love you forever. I like you for always. As long as I'm living my baby you will be."

The day my Mom called me and gave me the news of her cancer I remember sitting down on the couch in a state of shock and disbelief. After I hung up the phone my son, Kaj, who was 2 years old at that time, brought a book over to me and asked me to read it to him. He had found the book my Mother had given to me years ago. I had not read it in some time, and now as my son stood there holding it I was overcome with the love that my Mother had for me. I can't say for sure what inspired Kaj to bring me the book at that moment but I imagine the Holy Spirit was at work.

In time the cancer spread through my Mom's body and she required a tracheostomy in order to breathe. As I sat with my Mother in her hospital bed following her surgery a thought came to me and I shared it with her. I said "Mom, we've come to the end of that book, 'I Love You Forever'." At the end of the book the son picks up his elderly mother, and rocks her and shares the same words of love that she had shared for all of his years. My Mom couldn't speak but she got up so that I could hold her in my lap. And then I said to her, "I love you forever. I like you for always. As long as I'm living my Mother you will be."

The Holy Bible tells us that a saint is someone who has come into contact with the Holy God, someone who has been called, chosen, and transformed by the God's Word and Spirit. My Mother was a saint, and in her love for me she shared with me the love of Christ. I hope and pray that I am creating the same memories and connection of love for my children. Our heavenly Father's promise to them and to us are these, "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you...I Am with you always." (Isaiah 43:4-5)

On All Saints' Day, November 1, at 7:00 p.m. we will have a service to remember those who have gone before us. On Sunday, November 4, we will recognize and remember those who have died this past year.

Together in Faith,
Pr. Nate Bjorge



Youth & Family Team

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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Most importantly, I want to thank everyone for welcoming me so well! You have made me feel like I am a part of this body from the day I started. If I have not had the honor of meeting you yet, please find me on a Sunday morning (or any other time for that matter) and introduce yourself—I look forward to meeting you!

But for now, here is a little about me. I grew up in Lake of the Woods area where I spent most of my time either in a gym playing sports or outside with my family taking in God's beautiful creation. My family enjoys gardening and fishing in the summer, hunting in the fall, and snowmobiling and cross-country skiing in the winter. After high school, I attended Concordia College in Moorhead and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. I spent one year working in public accounting in the St. Cloud area before I fully surrendered to God's loving nudge to pursue youth ministry.

God planted a seed in my heart my sophomore year at Concordia, when I helped out in children's ministry at a local church. He continued to grow this seed, as I worked at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries during two summers in college. This calling really took root during one specific worship service at camp. I stood there in awe worshipping the God I love, surrounded by children I grew to love during their time at camp. It was just after the "Christ Hike" we did each week, where the children hike through scenes depicting the timeline of Jesus' life. The hike ends with an upbeat worship of our Savior who they had been learning about all week. As I stood there watching these elementary-aged campers authentically and excitedly worship their King, I could not help but respond in praise. It was during this moment, with tears of adoration streaming down my cheeks, that I prayed, "God if I ever doubt my calling in this life, please bring me back to this exact moment." And that He graciously has.

So this is my journey to Faith. In my first couple weeks at Faith, God has only solidified this calling. I cannot get over the fact that it is my job to invest in our youth and intentionally nurture their relationship with Jesus so that they are excited about experiencing His love and genuinely loving Him in return.

To God be all the glory,

Sara Stanton

Attendance & Offering

Sunday, October	7: 191	\$ 6,082
Sunday, October	14: 167	\$ 3,796
Sunday, October	21: 179	\$ 3,709
Sunday, October	28: 258	\$ 4,279

Children's Team

Children's Ministry Team

October 10, 2018

Members present: Lisa Christensen and Annie Mathison; Kate Bjorge was able to join us today about our Christmas Program.

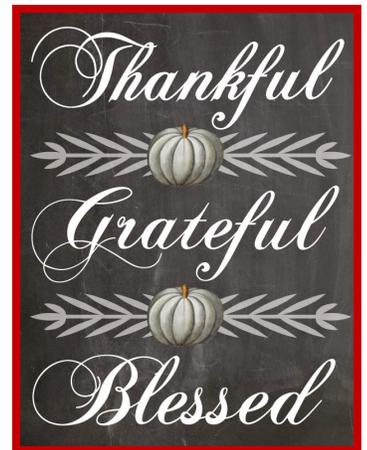
Today our team discussed the progress of Sunday School and some minor changes. Due to the large numbers in Pre-K through 1st grade, 1st grade students will be added to the smaller group of 2nd through 3rd graders, all other classes will remain the same at this time. Therefore, our new groups will be Pre-K through K, 1st through 3rd graders, 4th through 6th and 7th through 8th will stay the same.

Additional children's books were ordered for the Pre-K through K group. Lisa Christensen, Heidi Larsen, and Annie Mathison will take over the 1st through 3rd grade Sunday School class as needed.

The team also discussed Kate's ideas related to the Christmas Program and many great ideas were tossed around on how we could include all ages to show their talents during our Christmas season. Lisa will talk with Morgan Trang and Joan Novak about one possibility, Kate will work with the Praise band on another idea, and Lisa and Annie will continue to put together costume ideas.

Next meeting November 14, 2018

**Join us Wednesday, November 22nd
for a Thanksgiving Eve worship service
at 7:00 p.m. followed by a Pie social.**



News from the Congregational Life Committee

Confirmation was held Sunday, October 28th. Ten young men and women were confirmed. Congratulations to all of you. A reception was held following worship. It was wonderful to see our church filled and overflowing for this special event.

We will have New Member Sunday on November 4th. There will be a reception following worship to welcome these new members.

Our Christmas boutique and bake sale is fast approaching. It will be held Saturday, December 1st. Our team will be putting up posters in little falls and surrounding communities. If anyone would like flyers to put up, please contact any team member or the church office.

There will be a Thanksgiving eve service and a pie fellowship after. Please check the table for sign-up sheets for the events coming up.

Any questions or ideas contact any Congregational Life team member.

“For the team”,

Bev Larsen

October Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, October 18th, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Rich Collins, Kennard Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Denny Myers, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy and Pastor Nate

Absent: Kelly Olson, Mark Pugh, Ally White, Randy Wolbeck, Dave ZumBerge

The meeting was called to order by Rich Collins and opening prayer was led by Pastor Nate.

Secretary's Report: George Sandy moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to approve the September Council minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: George Sandy commented that Cheryl Rioux has done a great job cleaning up the reports and making them easier to read. The Finance Team has approved a transfer of \$30,000 from checking to savings so we can earn interest on that money. The Finance Team has also approved for Sarah Kalkbrenner to be issued a credit card through the church account with her name on it so she can order church supplies as needed. Denny Myers moved and Justin Juelke seconded to accept the Treasurer's Reports for September. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: There will be an All Saints' service on November 1 at 7:00 p.m. It will be just music, prayer and candle-lighting.

Sara Stanton will be writing a report for the council meetings each month but as she has just started, she didn't prepare one for tonight.

George Sandy moved and Cheryl Rioux seconded to approve the Pastor's Report. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Mortgage Refinance: The Finance Team is looking into the mortgage refinance which is coming up in January. In the meantime, they would like to present a congregational appeal to hopefully pay down the mortgage before the refinance. Rich Collins agreed to make this request to the congregation.

Security System: Kennard Fellbaum brought in the system that they previously used at their business. He left it for the security team to look over and decide if it will work for us. This would be indoors, our priority continues to be outdoors. The Security Team will continue to look at outdoor camera options.

Driveway: The driveway has potholes again. George Sandy will have another load of gravel brought to smooth it and then have it bladed again before winter if we get rain.

Snow Plowing: We will need to make sure Lyle Frehrichs wishes to continue to plow for us this year or look into other options.

2019 Budget: Reminder to the Ministry teams to begin working on their 2019 budgets at their November meetings. Cheryl Rioux will get budget reports to them prior to their meetings so they can evaluate their 2018 budget and expenses.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

The meeting closed with prayer.

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

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

A Special Council Meeting was called on Sunday, October 28th at 10:15 a.m.

The Finance Team was also encouraged to attend.

Present: Kate Bjorge, Dave ZumBerge, Cheryl Rioux, Joel Hanson, Rich Collins, George Sandy, Chris Scholl, Jim Nelson, Howie Larsen, Denny Myers, Justin Juelke and Pastor Nate.

The Council and Finance Team met after worship on Sunday Oct 28 2018 to discuss the purchase of a baby grand piano. Kate Bjorge gave the details of a piano that was found by the worship team. Currently we have \$7570.20 in the piano fund. The cost of the piano is \$9300 delivered and set up. Piano world of Plymouth has offered to finance the remaining balance with no interest. There was discussion on whether to pay the balance or use the interest-free financing. Denny Myer moved and Joel Hanson seconded to pay the entire purchase price to Piano World and as money continues to come in toward the piano, to repay the church general fund. Motion carried.