

FAITH at WORK

February 2024

Friends in Christ –

This is the last letter that I will write for the newsletter at Faith Lutheran Church. It is hard to say goodbye after nearly eight years, after you welcomed me into your congregation. It was an honor and a solemn joy to sojourn with you in our pilgrimage of faith. Together we have worshipped, studied God's word, gathered for fellowship and meals, baptized, buried friends and through all of it, proclaimed God's love through word and deed.

This is the last letter that I write for Faith Lutheran Church, but it is not the end of the story for either you or I. Both of us continue to be called by the Holy Spirit, to use our gifts to share God's love with a world in need. I am not certain where the Spirit will take either you or me. After all, this is the Spirit of gentleness and restlessness. We never know where the Spirit will take us. It drove Jesus in the wilderness (Mark 1:12), that compels the prophet to cry out (Isaiah 6). It intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words (Romans 8) and comforts us in our sorrows (2nd Corinthians 1:3). We never quite know where the Spirit will take us in our lives: but we know that God is faithful and will always be with us.

The Holy Spirit continues to call both of us to trust in God's grace and mercy, to go boldly into the world, to proclaim God's love through word and deed. I have said that I am taking the next few months as an unpaid sabbatical – to discern what the Spirit is calling me to. The community here is discerning their next steps as well. But whatever we go to, we go knowing that the Holy Spirit unites the whole Christian community into one. So we are all a part of the same family.

In 1st Corinthians, Paul writes to a fractured community about what has divided them. He says this in 1st Corinthians 3:6 – 9, speaking about divisions between this person in the community or another: ⁶"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building."

What Paul wanted to emphasize to the church at Corinth is that all are part of the same family of faith. Each of us have been given different skills and talents. But we are all working together for the common purpose.

There are no physical things I will take with me from Faith Lutheran Church. But there are a number of things that will stick with me the rest of my time here. You called me as pastor, invited me in your homes and together we journeyed in faith. You are the community where my daughter was baptized, you promised to support and uphold her in her life. I will also remember the sign that is on the doors as you go to the parking lot. "You are entering the mission field."

What happens in this building is great. Joyous worship, study and companionship, quilting and conversations. But this is the place where we are fed, nourished and sent. Sent as servants working together into the mission fields. God is not done with us yet.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Mark Bringman

Faith Lutheran Church

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In Memory of a Happy Day in February

Blessed be Thou for all the joy
My soul has felt today!
O let its memory stay with me
And never pass away!
I was alone, for those I loved
Were far away from me,
The sun shone on the withered grass,
The wind blew fresh and free.

Was it the smile of early spring
That made my bosom glow?
'Twas sweet, but neither sun nor wind
Could raise my spirit so.
Was it some feeling of delight,
All vague and undefined?
No, 'twas a rapture deep and strong,
Expanding in the mind!

Was it a sanguine view of life
And all its transient bliss--
A hope of bright prosperity?
O no, it was not this!
It was a glimpse of truth divine
Unto my spirit given
Illumined by a ray of light
That shone direct from heaven!

By Anne Bronte



Faith Lutheran Church		2024
STAFF		
Pastor	Vacant	
Office Manager	Carol Armstrong	
Organist/Pianist	Cheryl Blum	
Custodian	Hart's Janitorial	
CHURCH COUNCIL		
President	Gordy Gamet	
Vice President	Terry Virnig	
Secretary	Mary Sabatka Gamet	
Treasurer	Janice Lee Virnig	
Financial Secretary	Alice Weber	
Education/Youth	Vacant	
Evangelism & Mission	Dick Olsen	
Fellowship & Social	Peggy Preston	
Property Management	Vacant	
Stewardship & Resources	Vacant	
Worship & Music	Vacant	
Mission Endowment	Carol Olufson	



Financials as of: 01/24/2024

Undesignated Income: \$3,450.00
 Budgeted Undesignated Income: \$6,720.83
 Net Undesignated Income: **(\$3,270.83)**
 Total Expenses: \$5,405.19
 Total Net Income: \$6,645.81

Church Announcements and Events

3

Ash Wednesday Service—7:00pm

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday worship will be led by Pastor Patricia Hughes. This is the beginning of Lent, the season of repentance and renewal. Please join us as we begin our Lenten pilgrimage together with confession, forgiveness and the solemn reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Circle of Friends—9:00am

Saturday, February 17

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a fun time. Sewing supplies, sewing machines and practice fabrics will be available for those who would like to learn to sew. The quilting frame will be set up so folks who would like to help tie quilts can do that too. See you there!

Bingo & More Games—3:00pm

Sunday, February 18

All ages are welcome to join in the fun! There will be Bingo and other games to suit your fancy. Cost of Admission is a food donation for Albany F.I.S.H. Popcorn and Lemonade will be served. See you there!



Food Collection for F.I.S.H. of Albany

We are collecting non-perishable food items FISH of Albany. Donations can be placed in one of the baskets in the parking lot entryway.

**** Please check expiration date markings - FISH cannot accept foods past their marked expiration dates.**

Quilting and TOPs

Wednesdays @ 9am



Wednesday mornings are a busy time at Faith Lutheran Church. We have quilters working to create comforting quilts that are donated to bring people warmth, privacy and shelter. If you are interested in joining them, there is always plenty to do.

TOPs (stands for The Old People, though age is not requirements for the group) are busy working to keep our church property maintained and our grounds clean. If you have able hands and a willing heart, the TOPs will always welcome some help.



Mary Martha Circle

This is a Bible Study for women. We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month @ 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall**. If you would like more information, please call: Karen Glenn at (541) 928-4729 or Shirley Karstens at (541) 967-8309.

Church Office Hours

10:00am-2:00pm ◆ Monday—Wednesday—Friday

Church Council Communications

God's Present, God's Future

As you no doubt know, Pr. Mark has discerned a call to step away from his service to Faith Lutheran Church. Our prayers and gratitude go with him.

Because we want everyone to be aware of some important issues related to the transition between pastors, what experts call "separation ethics," we ask you to read this carefully.

The Church Council and Pastor Mark have agreed to the following and seek your cooperation, regarding the positive future relationships among us:

- ◆ We will do everything possible to uphold the mission of Faith Lutheran Church and the positive quality of life in this congregation.
- ◆ We will recognize the need for time to adjust to the new relationships and will reach out in care and compassion to one another.
- ◆ We will honor the departure of the former pastor so duties may be relinquished.
- ◆ We will accept that Pr. Mark is expected to disconnect from social events, pastoral care and social media with our congregation and its members for the foreseeable future to create space for both pastor and congregation, and for all the emotions we will be feeling.
- ◆ We will honor the arrival of the interim/transition pastor by acknowledging their role as Minister of Word and Sacrament, and by seeking their counsel and leadership.
- ◆ We will, after our interim journey, honor the arrival of the newly called pastor by acknowledging their role as Minister of Word and Sacrament, and by seeking their counsel and leadership.
- ◆ We are aware that conducting pastoral acts (such as baptism, weddings, funerals, confirmations, communions) and defining ministry programs and leadership styles are no longer the prerogative of the departing pastor but belong to the transition pastor and newly called pastor with the Council and congregation.

If you have questions regarding these agreements, please contact Gordy Gamet or Terry Virnig.



Prayer Chain: We are asking those who are part of the prayer chain to lift up the concerns of Faith Lutheran congregants on a weekly basis and to pray for other concerns as they are shared. This is can be as simple as taking a few seconds to ask God to be with those listed, lifting each one up by name. Peggy Preston will be heading up the prayer chain. **If you are interested in being on the prayer chain, send her an email: pegprestonn@aol.com**



Worship Leaders Team 2024				
February	4	11	18	25
Assisting Ministers	Janice	Shirley	Terry	Janice
Altar Prep	Elaine	Elaine	George	George
Ushers	Dick	Dick	Dick	Dick
Sound Technicians	Terry	Gordy	John	Terry

A Prayer for Every Day

Almighty and Everlasting God, thank You that your Spirit is within me. Lord, fill me anew with your Holy Spirit. Grant me the fortitude to live by the Spirit and to mark my life by a dependence on You. Even though these times deplete my energy and drain my resolve, You restore my soul by the indwelling of Your Spirit. Thank You that You have sent your Spirit and that this is a reason for my joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

February 2023 Worship Schedule



February 4	10:30am	Worship
February 11	10:30am	Worship
February 18	10:30am	Worship
February 25	10:30am	Worship

All Worship Services are filmed and available on YouTube



February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	3
4 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	5 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6	7 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	8 Janitorial Service	9 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy 1:00pm 20th Century Book Club	10
11 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming	12 12:30pm - 3:00pm Modern Travelers 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle	14 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	15	16 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	17 9:00am Circle of Friends (Fellowship Hall)
18 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 3:00pm Bingo & More!	19 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20	21 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	22 Janitorial Service	23 9:00am - 12:30pm String Therapy	24
25 10:30am Worship & Livestreaming 11:15am Fellowship Meeting	26 11:30am - 4:30pm Family Tree Event 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27	28 9:00am Quilters 9:00am TOPs	29		

The 2024 Flower Chart Is Posted!

A new flower chart has been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office. Please consider signing up to provide altar flowers for a few Sundays this year.



Prayer List

7

*PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE
NEEDING STRENGTH, GUIDANCE AND HEALING:*

Tim B.	Garrett Baarsch	Karen Glenn
Brenda Carroll	Stephanie Bauthman	Drew Butler
Sandy Hina	Carl Wogomon	Pat Norby
Robert Jon	John Busher	Chuck
Linda Gail Voet	Heather	Rose Mary Aaberg
Melba Wright	Julie Shaw	Cheryl Blum
Brandon Crawford	Lee Horst	Carol Olufson
Noah Holman	Margaret Rowland	John Villani
Gigi Douglas	Olivia Hunter	Vanessa Munro
Chiera Family	Nicholas Glass	Jim Preston
Izzy Covalt	Karen Hoover	Noriko Frayne

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND:

Ruth Irwin, Connie Griffis, Izzy Covalt, Cindy Harms, Margaret Rowland, Melba Wright, Sangsau Tran

OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO MOURN THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES



A Prayer for Peace in the World

O God of all, Of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, and Ishmael:
Our hearts are broken in pieces at the suffering and murder of your people.
Our voices cry for peace and for justice.

Comfort those who grieve, Console and heal the injured,
Be close to those in fear, Restrain with your mighty hand those who perpetrate violence.

Send us your wisdom in all that we say and do. Let our voice always seek justice, peace and security for all. Amen.





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