So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. ~ Mark 16:8

As we enter the month of March, we are deep in the season of Lent, and so making our way steadily to Christ’s betrayal and death. Along the way, we’re encouraged as God’s people to engage in disciplines unique to this season of the church year: we attend midweek evening services, perhaps we give up drinking pop, maybe we eat fish with the Catholics on Fridays. But whatever we do in this season, we are being called to lay all things at the foot of the cross, knowing that in the one who hangs upon it, all the sin and brokenness of this old world meet their end. Centrally, what meets its end in the cross of Christ, is death itself.

I’ve talked before about the nature of the gospels—that they are passion stories with extended introductions. That is, they are stories primarily about Jesus’ death and resurrection introduced by other stories—of Jesus’ birth and baptism, of signs and wonders, of parables told and sermons preached, of disciples called and sent—in order to help the reader to understand what it means for God’s people to follow Jesus, crucified and raised.

From Our Pastor

If you would like to receive our newsletter by e-mail, please contact Erin at office@faithlutheranisanti.com

Lent and Easter at Faith

March 7, 14, 21: Midweek Lenten Services at 7:00 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18: First Communion Classes following 9:30 a.m. worship services for youth 5th grade and older who have not received First Communion.

March 25: Palm Sunday with First Communion, 9:30 a.m.
**Children will also sing and parade with palms!**

**Pancake Brunch following the service! Enjoy pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. Freewill offerings will benefit youth programs and youth working toward attending ELCA Youth Gathering.**

March 29: Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.

March 30: Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m.

April 1: Easter Sunday! Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
Morning Services at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 9:30 a.m. service!
Children & Youth

**Upcoming Events**

**Remind Reminder!** If you haven’t already done so, please sign up for our text messaging group at www.remind.com/join/faithfams OR text @faithfams to 81010 from your cell phone and you'll be automatically signed up.

**Wednesday Youth Programs Now**
Meet at 6:00 pm!

*No Youth Programs March 7 due to spring break.*
* Wednesday Lenten Services, 7 pm through March 21
* Maundy Thursday Service March 29 at 7 pm
* Good Friday Service on March 30 at 7 pm

*Faith is hosting area congregations for this joint service!

**Palms, First Communion, and Pancakes!**
* At 9:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday (March 25) all children are invited to join in a parade with palm branches! *Be sure to practice your “Hosanna!”*
* First Communion students will receive Communion.
* After the service, enjoy pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee! Freewill offerings will the youth working toward attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer!

**Notes From Gretchen!**
Children/Youth/Family Ministry

Here’s a list of dates and events we are looking forward to!

**March**
* Easter Flowers are being sold by youth through March 18! Choose Easter Lily or Bulb Garden—$15 each. Proceeds benefit youth working toward attending ELCA Youth Gathering!
* Palm Sunday is March 25! All children (FLC and HSP) are invited to join in singing and parading with palm branches. First Communion class will receive communion during the service.

**April**
* Easter Sunday is April 1! An Easter egg hunt will follow the 9:30 a.m. service—help us find the eggs!
* Saturday, April 7: Youth Program teacher training at the Creamery Café in Isanti, 10:00 a.m.
* Yard cleanup for hire! ELCA Youth Gathering group

**May**
* Kingdom Kids Club ends mid-May.
* May 13: Mother’s Day
* May 20: End of KKC Picnic & Senior Recognition

**June**
* Vacation Bible School, June 18-21
* ELCA Youth Gathering group leaves June 26

**ELCA Youth Gathering**

**Youth:** We will be selling Easter flowers through **March 18**, and helping with the Pancake Brunch on Palm Sunday!

**Church:** Order flowers and eat pancakes!
For $15, you can purchase an Easter Lily or a Bulb Garden (contains flowers such as: crocus, hyacinth, jonquil, tulip). Please make checks payable to FLC. Flowers can be given in memory or in honor of someone and displayed in the Easter Garden in the sanctuary. Or you can order them to keep or give as gifts!
**You can also become an ELCA Youth Gathering Prayer Share Partner! Ask one of the youth or Pastor Cliff for details!**

**Speaking of pancakes, I am partial to apfelpfannkuchen! Try saying that five times fast!**

**July**
* ELCA Youth Gathering group returns July 2

**August**
* August 7: National Night Out
* Youth Program Registration Extravaganza! Date TBD

**September**
* September 9: Rally Sunday
* Fall Retreat, 3rd weekend
* All youth programs begin (KKC, Confirmation, Luther League)

**October**
* Confirmation Sunday, October 28
* Trunk or Treat, October 31
* Christmas Program planning begins

**November**
* Thanksgiving
* Christmas Program practice begins

**December**
* Christmas Program! December 9 during 9:30 a.m. service

Other activities may be added, such as: youth evangelism/mission opportunities, ice cream social, beach day/brat cookout, camping trip, archery day...

**Stay Tuned!!**
Organ Dedication and Concert  
Sunday, March 11 at 2:30 p.m.  
Guest Organist: Christopher Wallace  
representative of Allen Organs of the Twin Cities  
Coffee and refreshments will follow.  
Come and hear all the capabilities of Faith’s new organ!  
Invite friends to enjoy the concert, too!  

March  
Mission of the Month  

More than 500,000 Minnesotans faced hunger in the past year, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and struggling Minnesotans have made more than 3 million visits to their local food shelves each year for the past several years.  
Imagine for a moment ... a Minnesota where all residents have access to the healthy food they need and that no one suffers from hunger.  Minnesota FoodShare is working hard to make this vision a reality.  
What began 35 years ago as an effort organized by several faith communities has become a critical resource for food shelves across the state.  The Minnesota FoodShare campaign now brings together various Minnesota organizations, businesses and places of worship to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked through the year.  

We can help.  
Here at Faith Lutheran, we will be collecting cash donations and non-perishable food items during the month of March for our local food shelf.  

Please Help End Hunger in Minnesota!
2018 FLC Council

President: Sue Larson (2021)
Vice President: Ron Schleif (2019)
Secretary: Kathy Smith (2019)
Joel Bazey (2020)  Dan Johnson (2021)
Sheryl Christensen (2021)

Council meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

2018 FLC Council

President: Sue Larson (2021)
Vice President: Ron Schleif (2019)
Secretary: Kathy Smith (2019)
Joel Bazey (2020)  Dan Johnson (2021)
Sheryl Christensen (2021)

Council meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend.

YTD Finances as of 2/28/17
Total Income………..15,829.10
Total Expenses………..25,468.36
Net Income …………..-9,639.26

We give thee but thine own,
Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from thee.”
William W. How

Opportunities for Fellowship

Lectionary Bible Study in FLC library:
every Wednesday at 10 am
Coffee Hour: every Sunday after the 9:30 am service in the fellowship hall
Fellowship Breakfast: second Saturday at 8 am
Knit and Crochet in the FLC Library:
2nd Saturday at 9 am
Community Dinner:
third Thursday at 5:30 pm
Friday Fun at the Creamery:
third Friday at 9 am
Martha Circle: Evening Bible/book study fellowship at Rendezvous Coffee in Isanti
Date to be determined.

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Readers:
March 4: Rick Bridston
March 11: Kathy Smith
March 18: Rae Ann Mosiman
March 25: Diane Christensen
April 1: Sheryl Christensen
April 8: Joyce Johnson

Nursery:
March 4: Chris Bridston
March 11: Kaylee Irlbeck
March 18: Marcia Bridston
March 25: Jenny Reinhard
April 1: Easter—TBD
April 8: Heidi & Kennedy Clark

Council Retreat Minutes
February 3, 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Secretary’s Report: Minutes from 2017 Retreat and January 28, 2018 Annual Meeting approved.

Finance Report: January 2018 Profit & Loss report approved.

Pastor’s Report: Finalizing plans for youth programs and events. Making visitations to homebound. Baptisms and weddings coming up in February and March. The Revelation class has been rescheduled to begin after Easter. The Synod is offering a stewardship program to selected congregations—will find out if FLC could be put on the list. Report approved.

Officer Nominations/Elections:
President: Sue Larson
Vice President: Ron Schleif
Secretary: Kathy Smith
Motion to accept nominations was seconded and approved.

Committee Liaisons:
Personnel/Mutual Ministry—Sue Larson, Joel Bazey, Denise Roetzer Additional council members can participate in meetings and provide input.
Finance—Dan Johnson was suggested.
CE/Youth/Scholarship—Sheryl Christensen was suggested.
Social Ministry—Kathy Smith
Property—Ron Schleif, Joel Bazey
Worship & Music—Joyce Johnson
Memorial—Ron Schleif, Carol Kruse
Stewardship/Long Range Planning—currently inactive. Relevant items will be brought to council and task forces assigned as needed.

Mission of the Month will remain the same as 2017.

Coffee Hour and Communion Assistants were assigned through February 2019.

Signers on Bank Accounts, Safe Deposit Box:
Ron Schleif is taking care of removing past signers and adding new signers. Ron also did an inventory of the safe deposit box contents, and shared some of the history of FLC, dating back to 1902. Pastor Cliff also has memorabilia in a glass case in his office. It was suggested that a “history corner” could be created with FLC and Cemetery history and artifacts.

Policies: Erin is typing updated church policies on computer.

Scholarship Fund:
Fund contains over $50,000. Discussed possibilities for better utilizing funds. Scholarship policy will be reviewed, rewritten, and approved by 3 council members and Ashley Sjodin. Carol Kruse, Denise Roetzer, and Kathy Smith were assigned.

Faith Caring Fund:
Motion was made, seconded and approved to move Faith Caring Fund to a different account that does not require a $1000 minimum balance. For the time being, the balance of the WELCA equity fund ($1064.34) will be transferred to FCF to provide the minimum balance so that the rest of the funds can be used.

Van Insurance:
Discussed switching to a liability only policy, as suggested by Brotherhood Mutual (due to age of vehicle). Motion was made, seconded, and approved to keep coverage as it is. Pastor will ask Dan Johnson and Al Schulz to advise.

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Acolytes: Kaycee Lenox & Alina Ellis
Communion Assistant: Carol Kruse
April 2018

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| Easter Sunday!  
Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.  
Service/Communion 8:00 & 9:30 a.m.  
Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 am |   |   |     |     |     |     |
| **2** |   |   |     |     |     |     |
|   | Social Ministry and Property Committees 7 pm |   | Bible Study 10 am  
3rd Year Confirmation trip to KBEK 6pm  
**Youth Programs 6 pm** |     | Worship & Music 7 pm |   |
| **3** |   |   |     |     |     |     |
|   |   |   | Service/Baptism 9:30 am  
Coffee Hour 10:30 am  
Class: Revelation and the End of All Things 10:45 am |   |   |   |
| **4** |   |   |     |     |     |     |
|   |   |   | Bible Study 10 am  
**Youth Programs 6 pm** |     | Praise Team 7 pm |   |
| **5** |   |   |     |     |     |     |
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| **6** |   |   |     |     |     |     |
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| **7** |   |   |     |     |     |     |

Acolytes: Keagann Olson & Mark Wooster
Communion Assistant: Sue Larson

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**From Our Pastor continued...**

One story that is told and retold is that of the interrupted funeral. Jesus simply can’t pass a funeral procession, and without fail, he finds himself making a scene near the casket. Nowhere in the gospels does anyone die without Jesus breaking up the funeral by placing the dead person back on their feet. In fact, with the exception of Stephen, whose martyr death serves as the impetus for the church spreading beyond Jerusalem, there is no funeral story in the entire New Testament that does not end with the dead man or woman being raised in Jesus name.

Some of you have planned more than your share of funerals. There are families in our church and in our community that have been touched by unbearable grief. As God’s people we are called to walk with one another in the midst of such grief. And the way that we walk with one another in grief is to point each other to the one who refuses to leave the dead undisturbed—the one who comes uninvited to funeral after funeral, spoiling the occasion by removing its very raison d’etre.

So as we walk together through this season of Lent, whether you’ve given up chocolate or swearing or exercise, know that in Christ Jesus, all of us have given up death. For even as we walk this path toward the cross, suffering loss and grief along the way, a certain victory has been won over death, and it no longer has final say.

Pastor Clifton Hanson
United in Marriage
February 10
Rebecca Olson and Clinton Langerud

March 3
Dana Yerigan and Mickey Pickett

Our Little Leprechauns Keep Growing and Learning!
We are looking forward to spring, and exciting events like hatching chicks! Registration is open for the 2018-2019 school year, and we can’t wait to find out who our new friends will be! If you are looking for something fun to do on a Friday, join us for a free showing of “The Secret Life of Pets” at Isanti Community Center on March 16. (See below.) Doors and concessions open at 6:30 pm, and proceeds will benefit HSP!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day! Thanks for all your prayers, encouragement, and support!

The kids decided one day to “cook fish over the fire!” We love it when they use their imaginations! ☺

Class: Revelation and the End of All Things
For Real This Time!
Pastor Cliff will teach "Revelation and the End of All Things," a class based on the book by Dr. Craig Koester of Luther Seminary Sundays, April 8 through May 20, 10:45-11:30 a.m. each week. There's a lot of confusion out there over what we often call "the end times" and most of what we hear from books like "Left Behind" and "Late Great Planet Earth" actually doesn't come out of the book of Revelation. We'll meet in the sanctuary with our coffee and cookies, learn what the book of Revelation actually has to say, and discuss what it means for Christians to await the coming of our Lord.

Everyone is invited.
Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour 10:30 a.m.

Organ Dedication and Concert, March 11, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday Lenten Services at 7:00 p.m. through March 21

Palm Sunday, March 25: Service at 9:30 a.m. followed by Youth Pancake Brunch Fundraiser

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service, March 30 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Morning Services at 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

Did you know?
You can listen to Pastor Cliff’s sermons, and find all kinds of helpful information, by visiting www.faithlutheranisanti.com
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