

## AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Pastor Ian Coen-Frei**

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"May your name be hallowed.

What is this? Answer:

It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us."—Martin Luther's Small Catechism, The Explanation of the Lord's Prayer

These words, familiar to those who have been in a Lutheran confirmation class are found in Luther's *Small Catechism* as the beginning of his explanation of the Lord's Prayer. This explanation has been on my heart in the last few weeks as I was preparing to enter into the community of Faith Lutheran. From the conversations I had early on with the call committee, I got the sense that Faith is a congregation that desires to make God's name holy. Now, the word holy doesn't simply mean special or unique. God's name shouldn't be like wedding china that is placed in a cabinet and is only brought out a few times a year for special occasions. The word holy in the Greek of the New Testament is *hagios*, and it is something, or someone that is set-apart. To make God's name holy is to set it apart from all other names, and to call upon it as the source of our hope and love. It is the name in which martyrs of the faith like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Saint Oscar Romero and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. placed their trust. As these leaders in the faith desired God's name to be holy in Germany, El Salvador and the United States, so too we are called and empowered to desire that God's name be holy in Isanti and beyond.

In this time of separation and distance, it can be a challenge to recognize the ways God is present among and around us. In this month of August, I would encourage you to be on the lookout for ways that God's name is being made holy around you.

In the heat of the summer sun, marveling at the beauty and mystery of the universe (Ps. 8).

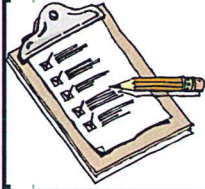
In the company of family and friends, appreciating the support of those who know us intimately (Ps. 133).

While worshipping together, praising the God who is with us (Matt 18:20).

In Christ,

—Pr. Ian

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Plans for Baptism's, funerals, confirmation, Bible Study and home visitations are being reviewed and will be communicated to the membership in the coming weeks. We are still working on how we need to address these needs working within COVID guidelines.

Thank you to all our faithful givers. For those folks who pledged in the fall of 2019 for the 2020 giving year, if you want to know where you are positioned in relationship to that pledge please contact the church via email: [office@faithlutheranianti.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranianti.com) and I will provide you with an update. No phone calls will be taken on this issue to ensure privacy concerns. However, you can stop into the office anytime during normal business hours.



## Ordination and Installation

Since I started at Faith on July 13<sup>th</sup>, some people may have noticed that we haven't had communion. The reason for that, is because I am not ordained yet, which is a requirement to preside for communion. Some exciting news is that my ordination and installation has been scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> here at Faith. It's a celebration that I am looking forward to sharing with the whole congregation. Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus there will be limited in-person attendance, with just my immediate family and those participating in the service. But because I want all of Faith to participate, it will be livestreamed for those who want to join in the festivities remotely. I will make sure to share details on how to participate in the weeks to come. On August 30<sup>th</sup>, we can then receive communion together!

—Pr. Ian



Please remember the following in your prayers:

*Those who have requested prayer or have been under doctors' care:*

Kim Olsen, Lynn Howe, Carolyn Rensfeld, Mollie Berg, Jayveon Maney, Rollie Iverson, Wilbur Nelson, Nick Fulweiler, Joyce LeTourneau, Julie D'Aigle, Jeanette Peterson, Barb Mooers, Terry Witt, Helen Grams, Tom Aldinger, Tom Larson, Lisa Melland, Ingrid Trandahl, Susan Armstrong, Angela Mains, Angie Johnson, Doris Kleven, Chris Johnson (Angie Johnson's son), Pricilla Bone, Norinne Mensen, Neil (Ingrid Trandahl's brother), Pastor John Kerr

**The Family of:** Harold 'Pete' Pedersen who passed June 17, 2020

**The Family of:** Carrie Callin who passed on July 21, 2020 (Niece of Tim & Sue Sjodin)

*Those who serve in our national, state, and local governments, and the courts, law enforcement, and military:* Seth Holmquist, Alex Pavin, Jon Profant and Aaron Brown

Please notify the office with updates to this section so we remain current.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** If you have a prayer request for our prayer team and others to remember in prayer, please notify the church office with your request.

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Do you like books about intrigue and drama with a Christian theme?

Check out: **THE GREAT DIVIDE**

Attorney Marcus Glenwood retreats to the small town of Rocky Mount, North Carolina after resigning from a prestigious corporate law firm after a personal tragedy. He finds himself in the biggest, most emotionally difficult case of his career. He meets Alma and Austin Hall whose daughter has disappeared in China while investigating slave like labor practices of an international manufacturer of athletic gear. He untangles a web of greed and deceit stretching from Washington to Europe and Asia.

The book starts with the disappearance of Gloria Hall. Then jumps to a controversy involving New Horizons Incorporated trying to bully their way into trying to take over cemetery land owned by The Church New Zion because it ruins the view from their new headquarters. Marcus helps the church resolve this issue.. Which leads to Marcus getting involved with the Halls. There are many twists and turns in this book. If you like this kind of reading it will definitely keep your attention.

Find this book in the Faith Library, shelf 4.BUN

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Technology is wonderful and many of us do not participate in its usage. We are learning more about our electronic capabilities within the church and hope to bring ourselves into 21st century technology soon. We have many members who stream Sunday Services by other churches from their homes as we do not yet have the capability from Faith. But, we are working on it. If we can set you up or provide some training on how to use your computer to access emails or the website, please give the church a call and we'll see what we can do to help you out. Its not always as scary as you think.

Faith Lutheran Church; Isanti, MN Preparedness Plan *Updated: July 25, 2020*

The following guidelines will be in place and followed:

- Masks are **required when in the building, unless working in an isolated area**. Extra masks will be available **near the entrance**.
- Practice Social Distancing **of at least 6 feet** upon entering and exiting the building.
- Worship attendance will be kept at 50% capacity of the building.
- Keep attendance log of all who attend worship. Include names and phone numbers, for tracing purposes if a COVID-19 case develops.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance door and throughout the building.
- Seating in Sanctuary will be marked to sit in every other pew. Families may sit together.
- Any handouts needed for worship will be handed out in Narthex by an Usher, who will be wearing a mask and gloves.
- No Congregational singing. Soloist and individual music will be permitted.
- No touch alternative for Sharing the Peace.
- Offering plates will be available in Narthex.
- The Elements (prepackaged) will be distributed in the Narthex as worshipers enter the Sanctuary on Communion Sundays.
- No coffee hour or fellowship gathering before or after worship.
- Water fountain will not be accessible.
- Building will be sanitized between worship services.



The last week in July brought us Vacation Bible School fun! We have been meeting virtually with one session for pre-school aged children and one for elementary. There are also families participating using the recorded version.

**Check out the videos on the website!**

Our theme this year for VBS is **FOCUS: Take a closer look.**

We started with focusing on what we can see. We know God exists because of all the amazing things around us. We made binoculars and used magnifying glasses to take a closer look.

On Tuesday, July 28, we learned that by listening to God's word, we can build a strong foundation for life. We had fun building with our snack of wafer cookies and peanut butter and also with Play-doh.

Wednesday, July 29, we learned we can talk with other's about what we believe. We created suncatchers to show God's light shines through us.

Thursday, July 30, we learned we can pray anywhere, anytime and about anything! We decorated a foam cross to remind us to talk to Jesus.

Friday, July 31, we learned you can live for God by loving others. A picture frame helps us to remember the week.



Ms Ashley and Ms Denise were the instructors.

FOCUS



Participating on-line!



Using magnifying glasses to take a closer look at God's creation.

Building our foundation, wafer cookies and



We had 7 pre-school and 16 elementary participants this year. One family joined us from Pine City!

**Your dedicated giving made this ministry possible. We are very grateful.**

Christian Education Committee

## FLC Church Council – July 21, 2020

7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Mary Bye, Ann Krueger, Sheryl Christensen, Denise Roetzer, Ron Schleif, Ashley Sjodin, Kathy Smith, Justin Carroll, Monica Pavin, and Pastor Ian Coen-Frei.

**Call to Order** - Kathy Smith called the meeting to order. Welcome was extended to Pastor Ian Coen-Frei, followed by devotion.

Minutes from June 16, 18 Council meetings; and June 22 Congregational meeting were previously approved.

**Financial Report \*** – Sheryl Christensen reported June ended +\$4,624.90. Motion made, and seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report \*** - A combined Ordination and Installation Service is scheduled for Pastor Ian on Saturday, August 29 at Faith Lutheran, Isanti. Pastor Ian will also check with Cambridge Lutheran to see if they have a pastor available to lead communion the first or second Sunday in August. Plans for baptisms, funerals, Confirmation, Bible Study and home visitations will be reviewed in the coming weeks. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Pastor's Report. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports \*:

**Heavenly Sunshine Preschool** – Written report dated July 14 from Erika Zdon was presented. Plans to reopen are in process, with COVID-19 safety guidelines in place. Staff for the coming year will remain unchanged. 19 of 20 spots were filled for MWF class; 6 of 14 spots were registered for T/TH class. First day of classes are scheduled for Sept. 14/15.

**Personnel** - Ann Krueger presented updated Custodian and Organist/Pianist job descriptions. Council recommended minor changes to be made by the Personnel Committee, to be presented for approval at the next council meeting.

**Property** – Justin Carroll presented the Property and Maintenance Log, showing current tasks and their status. Justin reported they are considering posting the log, so church members can volunteer to help, based on their skills and what is needed at the time.

There is a pipe in the parsonage shower that needs to be replaced. It was recommended that an adjustment to the deteriorating chimney/roofline would also allow for a closet for bathroom plumbing access. The back porch windows need to be replaced. The committee is gathering quotes on each of these projects, and they will make a recommendation at the next council meeting.

**Finance** – Ivan Russell has stepped down from this committee, which has not met in recent months. They will work on scheduling a Zoom meeting this month.

**Christian Education** – Denise Roetzer reported there are 18 children registered for Vacation Bible School and more are coming in. VBS will take place virtually this year, July 27-31, for preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Information and craft packets will be distributed to registered students in advance. Gretchen Yagow obtained a Thrivent grant, designated to VBS.

**Social Ministry** – Kathy Smith reported the committee is unsure if Fall Fest will take place this October. The committee recommends reopening the Faith Caring Fund to church members only at this time, allowing Pastor Ian to get a good handle on the program. A confidential list needs to be kept and provided to the audit committee for accountability purposes. Pastor Ian requested a list of guidelines to follow. Kathy Smith will follow up.

**Stewardship** – Ivan Russell has stepped down from this committee. Ashley, the sole member currently on this committee, is reading a book on stewardship and will meet with Pastor Ian next month.

**Worship & Music** – Mary Bye reported the committee has met several times to plan reopening of the church and resuming worship services, which successfully happened on July 5th. Adjustments are being made weekly based on changes to State guidelines, and feedback given by the congregation.

**Memorial Fund** – Rae Ann Mosiman submitted a written report, indicating the committee is creating a spreadsheet to monitor the memorial fund throughout the year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all committee reports. Motion carried.

**Stay Safe Order** – We opened for Worship on July 5. After checking with the Synod for possible

## FLC Church Council – July 21, 2020 continued

### Old/New Business

**Stay Safe Order** – We opened for Worship on July 5. After checking with the Synod for possible guidelines, plans will be made to accommodate funerals, weddings and baptisms. The layout of the church also needs to be considered when deciding the number of people allowed. Plans for other organizations, groups to meet at our church will be made when requested.

**2019 Audit Report** – To be presented to the Finance Committee in August.

**Request to Update Signers on Current Bank Accounts** - Ron Schleif provided current information on bank accounts. Signers on both the Faith Caring Fund and the Memorial Fund are outdated. Pastor Ian Coen-Frei will be added to the Faith Caring Fund account, and members of the Memorial Fund Committee will be signers on that account. Motion was made and seconded to approve the change in signers on the two accounts as noted above. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

### Life together during the Coronavirus

In 1527, Martin Luther addressed the bubonic plague that was sweeping across Europe writing, “I leave it to the doctors of medicine and others with greater experience than mine in such matters.” Luther believed that the primary call of Christians was to love their neighbor as God loved them. The best expression of love was through following the advice of those who were the experts in the fields of science and medicine.

**500 years later**, with a pandemic sweeping across the globe, we are faced with a similar question of how we are able to best love our neighbor. As a worshipping community, Faith is following the guidelines put in place by the state. While these guidelines might make the experience of coming to church different from what was “normal,” it is through following them that we are showing love for our neighbor. And in the discomfort that may be experienced, I encourage you to express your grief and hope for the day when we can worship together, singing joyfully and sharing a sign of peace.

**Moving forward**, the guidelines will change. Our hope is that through following the current guidelines the pandemic will be slowed, and some of the restrictions on gathering will be lifted. If the guidelines are enhanced and we need to change what worshipping at Faith is like, we will respond appropriately and will share that information with the congregation. We can give thanks to God that through these changes and the tumult of life, God is still our firm foundation.

**As we continue** to live in this time of distance, I encourage us all to hold fast to the words of Paul in his letter to the Romans,

**“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”**

In Christ,

–Pr. Ian

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Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool  
763-444-7527

Non – Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #3  
ISANTI, MINN

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
following COVID Guidelines

Office Hours: Tues thru Fri 9am-2pm

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