



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 87— 109 Second Ave NW
Isanti, MN 55040

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER
Office: 763-444-9201
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PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear siblings in Christ,

February is upon us, and with it comes the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of the church year that has taken a number of different meanings throughout its history. Early on in the history of the church, Lent was seen as a time to prepare new believers for baptism at Easter. Because baptism is the entering into the death and resurrection of Christ, Easter was the primary time when baptisms occurred in the church.

Yet, when Easter and Adult baptisms declined and a medieval focus on personal sinfulness intensified, Lent became a forty-day period of penance for all Christians. All of lent carried a focus on the passion of Christ, which was seen as a necessary response to personal sinfulness. Christians were encouraged to identify with Christ's suffering and demonstrate their penitence by "giving up" something for Lent. However, in the twentieth century, Lent has been reevaluated, and many have returned to recognizing it as a time of baptismal preparation.

Lent is now (generally) acknowledged as a time of preparation for baptism at Easter, but also baptismal renewal for all Christians. The medieval focuses on penance and personal disciplines can still be recognized (just as we confess our sins before for forgiveness), but are held within a larger acknowledgment that each Sunday we receive the body of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins.

There are three classic Lenten disciplines: giving of alms to the poor, praying, and fasting. Each of these disciplines are not necessary for gaining God's approval, but rather are behaviors that we choose to adopt to remind ourselves of the renewal of life that our baptism calls forth.

As a congregation, we will be working to help facilitate the discipline of praying—through Sunday and mid-week services. I encourage everyone to participate as you are able in joining in our worship together.

And as individual members, I encourage everyone to discern how we each can help support our neighbors in need during this challenging economic and social time. Maybe giving alms to your neighbor isn't limited to giving money, but could also take the form of checking in and seeing how they are doing, offering some socially distanced conversation.

And finally, while fasting is usually seen as giving something up, what might it mean to refrain from food that is high on the food chain, and to eat foods that are more sustainable and have less environmental impact? How might we care for our neighbor and creation through those actions?

As we enter into this time of preparation for the three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil—journeying toward the cross, tomb and celebration—I echo the prayer after communion from this season praying that our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms a making of peace, and our prayer the song of grateful hearts.

In Christ,

—Pr. Ian



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

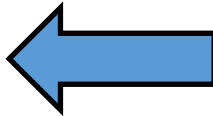
This February Newsletter is the last one being mailed out Third Class.

For those who have email, we will send the newsletter to you electronically in a PDF format for easy opening/ printing. The newsletter will also be posted on our website. (www.faihlutheranisanti.com) At the start, the only newsletters that will be mailed will be to our homebound members. If you do not have access to the internet and you are unable to pickup a newsletter at the church, you will need to let us know so you can be added to the mailing list. There will be a limited number of people to keep costs down.

This change came about because we need 200 member households to mail at the Third Class rate. At the present time we have approximately 142 households. Since we now need to mail at First Class, the postage rate would be \$0.55 per piece instead of the \$0.184 per piece. We can save a minimum of \$250 per year in postal permit fees and the reduced cost for printing the newsletter.

We hope you understand the need for this change. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office. 763-444-9201

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2020



Many of the Giving Statements for 2020 were sent out to members with an email address.

Please contact the church to pickup your statement. They will be printed at the time of your request.

763-444-9201



"Small church, BIG heart" describes our church's response to our Giving Tree during December.

Donations included 304 pounds of food for the food shelf, several boxes of clothing and personal care items for Black Dog Hill Shelter, as well as \$1,045 in cash donations.

Thank you! -- What a blessing to those in need!

- Social Ministry



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

A Week of Prayer

Day 1: Pray against fear of the future. Ask for God's help to refocus your energy from fear to hope, believing that he has a plan in the midst of the unknown.

PSALM 27:1, ((NIV)) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 2: Pray for peace that is beyond your circumstances. In the midst of financial difficulties, relationship issues and health crises, remember that God has overcome all the things that can discourage or defeat us.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 3: Instead of being anxious about the government and leaders, pray for them. Ask God to help you not worry about the things that are out of your control, and instead pray that God will have mercy on our nation.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 4: When you're afraid of making a wrong decision, pray for God's guidance. Pray he will give you wisdom in every circumstance and guidance for every decision. Believe that God has your best at heart and is faithful to lead you as you trust in him.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 5: Pray for any children in your life who are feeling anxiety and fear right now. Pray that God will quiet their hearts, and that godly men and women will speak truth into their lives and bring them peace.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 6: Praise God that you can count on his presence wherever you go. Praise him for always being near, walking with you every day in every moment.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

Day 7: What is an area of your own life where you are feeling fear? For the safety of your family and loved ones? That you will become sick or lose your job? Speak those fears aloud and ask God to cover them with his grace and mercy.

PSALM 27:1, (NIV) The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?

1st Quarter – Lenten/Easter Mission



Luther Point Bible Camp was hit hard this past year, but are continuing their mission with virtual programs, and hoping to reopen their retreat center to various programs in a socially distanced way. They currently have winterized cabin rentals available for family getaways and are planning for summer camps in 2021. (We are hoping some of our youth can attend !)
For more information visit their website at: lutherpoint.org

Keep our Staff Safe

In keeping with current state guidelines, please limit-in-person office visits to only those scheduled in advance. Any donations can be dropped off in the church Narthex and the office is open for phone calls:

Tuesday—Friday 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

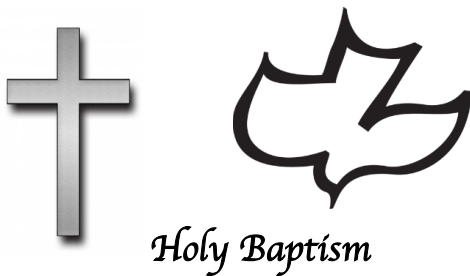
This is a temporary situation and we ask your help in caring for each other.

Thank you

Church Council

GIVING ENVELOPES

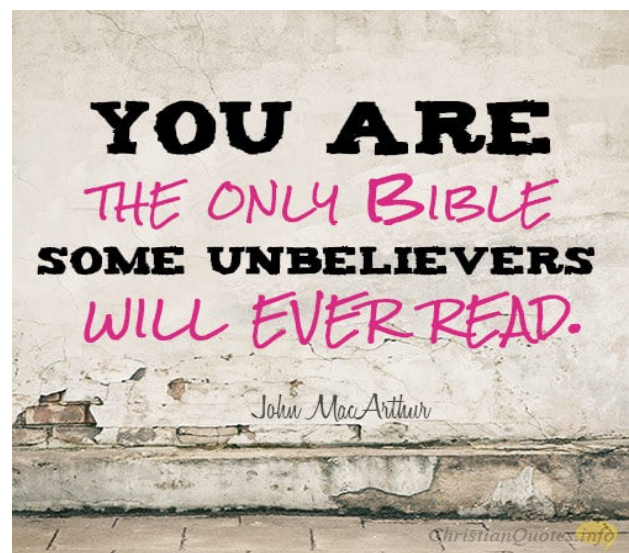
Do you get giving envelopes sent to your home every few months? Are you using them or have you changed to another method, such as online giving? If you would like to cancel the giving envelopes being sent to your home, please notify the church and you will be deleted from that mailing list. This can always be changed in the future. This will help in a small way to lower church expenses.



Holy Baptism

January 22, 2021

Nova Elaine Kappelhoff



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting - Minutes January 19, 2021

Members Present: Kathy Smith, Ron Schleif, Pastor Ian, Denise Roetzer, Anika Pavin, Ann Krueger, Mary Bye and Ashley Sjodin

Members Not present: Sheryl Christiansen

Also Present: Rae Ann Mosiman and Erika Zdon

Meeting was called to order by Kathy Smith; Pastor Ian led devotion.

Secretary's Report – Minutes from the Dec. 15 and Jan. 5 Council meetings were previously approved by email.

Office Copier Contract * – Rae Ann Mosiman presented options in regard to renewing a service agreement on the 5-year-old copy machine owned by the church; sign a 5-year lease on a new machine; or purchase a new machine. All options include toner and maintenance. Overall cost savings over five years would be the purchase of a new machine. Erika Zdon indicated Heavenly Sunshine Preschool would help pay for the cost of a new machine. Motion was made to purchase the new copier with subsidy from the Preschool. Council approved.

Financial Report *– December 2020 ended with +\$1,919.45 income over expenses. The \$18,300 granted through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was very instrumental. Report approved by Council.

Pastor's Report * - Pre-recorded worship services are being planned for the next two months, with confirmation youth helping lead with readings and prayers. Adult Bible Study and Confirmation classes continue. Pastoral care during the pandemic continues to be a challenge. Pastor Ian and Sarah are expecting their first child, due April 8. He is in the process of arranging worship and pastoral coverage at Faith while he is on parental leave, likely through May. Report was approved by Council.

Committee Reports *:

Heavenly Sunshine Preschool / Child Care – Erika Zdon reported the Preschool continues with no Covid cases. Registration for next fall will likely be a 3-day-a-week program. Erika and her son were thanked for cleaning the church carpets in December.

Personnel – Ann Krueger - Annual staff reviews are near completion. Any pay increases will be retroactive to January 1. Erin Olson has stepped down from financial assistance. The company, Clergy Financial, will be looked at as a possible solution for financial management.

Property – Ron Schleif reported a bid has come in for a metal roof on the parsonage at \$28,000 above the replacement cost of standard shingles, therefore not a feasible option. Asphalt shingle replacement will take place in the Spring; chimney will be removed and sealed.

Kathy Smith reported Grinnell Insurance has requested several documents as part of their risk assessment. Council members will follow up in providing these documents.

Finance -- Second Draw Application for SBA's PPP loan has been submitted. No guarantees on receiving additional funds.

Social Ministry – Kathy Smith reported generous donations to the Food Shelf and Black Dog Hill Shelter in December. Lenten/Easter mission will be Luther Point Bible Camp.

Stewardship – No report.

Worship & Music – Mary Bye noted that during the Pastor's leave, we will go to live stream instead of pre-recorded worship. A plan is needed to accomplish this.

continued on next

council minutes continued

Memorial Fund – Rae Ann Mosiman reported \$275 was donated to Undesignated Funds in 2020; \$300 in January 2021.
Committee reports were approved.

Old/New Business

MN Stay Safe – After Council discussion, Ron made a motion for FLC to continue with virtual worship at this time, but also try to reach out more to our members and the community. Council approved. This will be reviewed monthly as to what is best for the safety of our church members.

2021 Budget Review (January 24) and 2020 FLC Annual Meeting (January 31). Both meetings to be held virtually.
Council approved conducting the elections by absentee ballot, with a ballot return deadline of Noon on January 29. Election results will be reported at the Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Denise Roetzer, Council Secretary



Baby Watch!



Pastor Ian and Sarah are busy getting ready for the arrival of their first child. The due date is April 8!

Women of the church will host a virtual “Meet the Baby” – with parents, of course – sometime after the baby’s arrival. This will give congregational members a chance to congratulate and bestow blessings on this growing family.

More to come !

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Those who have requested prayer or have been under doctors’ care:

Kim Olsen, Lynn Howe, Rollie Iverson, Wilbur Nelson, Jeanette Peterson, Barb Mooers, Helen Grams, Tom Aldinger, Tom Larson, Lisa Melland, Angie Johnson, Doris Kleven, Chris Johnson (Angie Johnson’s son), Norinne Mensen, Neil Anderson (Ingrid Trandahl’s brother), Pastor John Kerr, Doug Trandahl, Annette Russell, Dawn Holmquist (surgery on broken foot) Dale Olsen.

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.

Last updated January 21, 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <u>4:30 Stewardship</u>	2 <u>7pm Social Ministry</u> <u>7pm Property</u>	3 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>6pm Kingdom Kids</u> <u>7pm Year B Confirmation</u>	4 <u>7pm Worship & Music</u>	5	6 9:30—noon Council Retreat
7 <u>8:30 Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>9:30am Online Service w/ communion</u>	8	9 <u>6:30pm Finance</u>	10 <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>6pm Kingdom Kids</u> <u>7pm Year A Confirmation</u>	11 All Council Reports Due to Office <u>7pm Praise Team</u>	12	13
14 <u>8:30 Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>9:30am Online Service</u>	15	16 <u>7pm Council</u>	17 <u>10am Bible Study</u>	18 <u>7pm Praise Team</u>	19	20
						
21 <u>8:30 Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>9:30am Online Service w/ communion</u>	22	23 <u>7pm Christian Ed</u>	24 Cut-off for Newsletter <u>10am Bible Study</u> <u>6pm Kingdom Kids</u> <u>7pm Year A Confirmation</u>	25 <u>7pm Praise Team</u>	26	27
28 <u>8:30 Virtual Sunday School</u> <u>9:30am Online Service</u>						

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763-444-7527

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #3

SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

via [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FAITHLUTHERANISANTI/LIVE](https://www.facebook.com/faithlutheranisanti/live)

via YouTube Faith Lutheran Isanti

Office Hours By Appointment Only

Tues thru Fri 9a.m. to 2p.m.

website: www.faithlutheranisanti.com

