



Faith Lutheran Church

March 2021

"The Church is Smaller"

A topic of great concern nowadays is the fact that the Christian church in the United States is declining in membership. According to "The Shrinking Church" article in the December 2012 issue of The Lutheran magazine, "Nearly every U.S. Christian denomination has seen membership declines in the past two years, including Southern Baptists Only Roman Catholics seem to be hanging on, which experts attribute to a growing Latino population."

Many reasons are given as to why the Christian church is getting smaller. For instance our demography is changing. Traditional church attending people marry later in life and have fewer children. A growing number of couples have no children at all. Another eye opening observation was cited in this same article, "eighteen to 35-year-olds, aren't seeing church as really relevant to what they need to get done. They want meaning in their lives but don't necessarily see the church providing that."

We are all aware of several churches in our area that are barely hanging on as they experience elderly members die with no one to fill their places. Farms get bigger and the rural community gets smaller.

"Why don't people come to church," we ask ourselves, church leaders, and pastors? A partial answer has to be because there are fewer people to attend church and some people simply don't see the church as meeting their needs. Many people claim to have a faith but don't feel a connection to the church. Nowadays too many other activities compete for people's time and attention and win!

What can be done to grow the church? It's a question that is often asked. I have heard people throughout our synod lay this question firmly on the doorstep of leaders and pastors. "If only we do more, they will come," is a comment often made. "Change worship times and get more programs," is also a comment I've heard more than once.

Where do we begin in an attempt to call people home to Faith Lutheran Church? This has to begin with us individually. We must ask ourselves "do we really love God and our neighbor as ourselves?" Does Faith Lutheran as a church and a community of faith "care for the least of theses and love our enemies?" These questions have to be front and center of any further conversation about what we need to do to grow the Church.

Next month we will celebrate Easter. Our sanctuary will be full. Members and visitors will gather to celebrate our greatest gift of salvation in our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ. But, will these visitors and infrequent to worship members experience Jesus in us? Will they leave feeling they are always welcome here and dearly missed?

It's a popular question nowadays, "Why aren't people coming to church?" I believe that even before we attempt to answer this question, we must ask ourselves a few questions. "Do I really love God and my neighbor as myself?" "Is this evident in my life?" Then, and only then, can we really begin to grow the church of Jesus Christ.

Together in Christ,

Pr. Ron Nichols

COUNCIL REPORT

The Faith Lutheran Church Council met February 17, 2021. Due to COVID restrictions and the church being closed much of last fall, personnel reviews were not completed. The Council has directed the Personnel Committee to do the reviews and have their recommendation to the council before their March meeting.

The Constitution that the church approved a couple of years ago has not yet been finalized. The Synod had some recommended changes which the council approved. One of the noted changes is that the Lay Ministry Board will be renamed Discipleship Committee.

There was discussion about the various boards and the status of members for those boards. Based on the discussion at the annual meeting, it appears that Jerome Kallhoff, Darcy Daline and Tamara Bissett are on the Stewardship Board. Pastor Ron suggested that the Board have at least one and preferably two more members.

The Lay Ministry (now called Discipleship Board) has not been functioning for a while. Melanie Miller is on that Board, but there were no other members. Kelly Zahrbock agreed to be on that Board and they will look for additional members.

The Church is in need of an Education Director. The Council expressed concern that this position remains unfilled; however, Deb Meyer has taken it on in the interim and has done an excellent job. The Council also believes that youth activities should also be offered to the older students.

Pastor Ron reported that he has met with the call committee and will be meeting with them again. The Lenten program will be Puzzles of the Cross using the Holden Evening Prayer. He will hold First Holy Communion class for both 5th and 6th graders Sunday, February 21, 2021.

Little Blessings requested approval to repair and update the water fountain on the west side of the building at their expense. The Council approved the repair.

The full minutes of the meeting are posted on the bulletin board across from the office and copies are available in the Church office.

Good News from Global

Global Missions committee reminds us that Faith Lutheran's annual OPERATION STARFISH kicked off on Ash Wednesday - February 17 and runs through Easter Sunday, April 4. We will attempt to raise nearly \$4,000 to build a home for a most deserving family through Food for the Poor. The home will most likely be built in the poorest of poor country Haiti as the need is usually the greatest here. Please check out the wall across the hall from Pastor's office to see all of the beautiful faces of the families standing near their homes built through Food for the Poor with donations raised by Faith!

All gifts must be in on Easter Sunday.

"As often as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to Me."

Matthew 25:40. Please open your hearts and give.

Faith Lutheran Staff & Officers

Pastor Ronald Nichols

Office Staff

Music Director: Linda Anderson

Office Manager/ Financial Secretary:
Jessica Borstad

Education Coordinator:

Little Blessings Teacher: Kelli Fernholz

Senior Choir Director: Gary Boraas

Executive Council

President: Ryan Giles

Vice-President: David Kriese

Secretary: Jeanene Munsterman

Treasurer: Becky Mortenson

Mark Siegert

Linda Anderson

Kelly Zahrbock

Melanie Miller

Taylor Shelstad

W-ELCA

Kathy Harwick

Karen Nesvold

Eileen Trelstad

Education Committee

Jodi Kallhoff

Deb Meyer

Jessica Borstad

Property Committee

Dave Amundson

Ron Toenies

Mark Siegert

Worship Committee

Gail Smith

Linda Anderson

Mary Wodrich

Lorrie Ehrenberg

Jerome Kallhoff

Discipleship Committee

Melanie Miller

Tamara Bissett

Kelly Zahrbock

Stewardship Board

Jerome Kallhoff

Darcy Daline

Global Missions

Kris Hanson

Jody Dahle

Stan Olson

Curtis Seefeld

Betty Tollefson

Char Heinzen

*The Executive Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. (except during Lent)

**All other committees are to meet once a month and report to the Executive Council.

March 9- Ruth-9:30

March brings a time change with longer daylight and Saint Patrick's Day and a poem from Zelma Dennis.

An Irish Blessing

May love, light and laughter
All dance through you days.
May you heart lift with song
And your soul sing its praise.
May the "top o' the morning"
Make the day come to life.

W-ELCA NEWS

May your lips speak
with kindness
And banish all strife.
May the luck of the wee folks
Bring a joy you can hold,
And the Peace of Saint Patrick
In your heart will unfold.
All these are the blessings
Which the Irish will say,
Whenever they greet you
On Saint Patrick's Day!

March 10-

Lydia/Hannah-9:30





Notes from Linda

The Joyful Noise Singers/Ringers will be having a get-together with their Lenten Partners on Wednesday, March 31, at 3:30. They have been corresponding/connecting since the Lent season began.

Seeking applicants for Coordinator of Education and youth activities within the church. Salary Position. Deep love of children, computer skills, and leadership skills with children and adult volunteers preferred.

Please contact Faith Lutheran Church office for job description and to leave resume. 320-598-3630

Worship Committee News by Gail Smith

Let the Worship Committee help you shop for your Easter flowers. We'll be taking orders after church soon. Watch for us in the Narthex.

We will also be having an Easter Prayer Vigil on Saturday, April 3rd from 6AM to 6PM in half hour time slots. Watch for a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



We wanted to extend a request out to you in hopes you may be able to help us reach anyone in our area who is 65 years of age or older who has not received a COVID vaccine. We realize there may be individuals who are home bound or do not have internet or access to some of the social media outlets that are often used to communicate information. We want to make sure they are getting this important information. If you have a way to reach out to your church members and friends who are 65+ to make sure they know they can receive the vaccine, that would be wonderful. If there is anyone interested, please encourage them to call the intake line at 1-800-657-3291, ext. 233.

Thank you to all the musicians and the tech crew who have been assisting in our services.

You are appreciated!

The ordination of Ann Bjorklund is Saturday, March 13th at Bethlehem, St. Cloud, MN.

We extend our congratulations and pray for God's blessings upon Ann, who has been called to serve Living Waters Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, MN. More information will be coming soon about attending the ordination service in-person.

MARCH

Acolyte

7- Hannah & Kendyl
14 - Aspen & Zoey
21 - Daytona & Malcom
28 - Mackenzie & Kaden

Lay Reader

7- Ryan Giles
14 - Contemporary
21 - Tamara Bissett
28 - Cindy Hansen

WORSHIP

Ushers

7- Team 2
14 - Team 1
21 - Team 7
28 - Team 6

Screen

7- Derek
14 - Jeanene
21 - Lorrie
28 -

ASSISTANTS

Videographer

7- Dan L.
14 - Maynard
21 - Jeff
28 - Dan W.

Communion

7- Jody D., Lori E.,
14 - Jodi K., Bob G., Angie S.
21 - Gail S., Diana S., Mary W.
28 - Cindy H., Jodi W., Fran S.

1	Wendy Hancock	13	Dan Wahl
1	David Kriese	13	Todd Mortenson
1	Terri Halvorson	14	Lorrie Ehrenberg
3	Hunter Ludvigson	14	Randy Arends
5	Angela Young	14	Cory Loterbauer
5	Adam Dvorak	15	Maxine Tostenson
6	Gary Boraas	15	Nancy Goers
6	Gayle Streich	15	Mark Diller
6	Steve Helgemo	16	Sharon Clark
6	Lori Engesmoe	16	Malcolm Lillejord
7	Tyler Shickedanz	18	Karen Nesvold
8	Linda Anderson	19	David Ludvigson
8	Ashley Nicholson	19	Blake Wollschlager
8	Brody Nygard	20	Elwood Borstad
9	Janice Halvorson	20	Deloris Churness
9	Brent Borstad	21	Doris Storlien
9	Blaine Dvorak	21	Mary Wodrich
10	Helen Haverberg	21	Wyatt Halvorson
10	James Haug	21	Elaine Jean Andrews
10	Ann Bjorklund	22	Arvid Gollnick
10	Nathan Ludvigson	22	Ed Olson Jr.
11	Shirley Streich	22	Joseph Lund
13	Ruth Myhres	22	Meghan Flores
13	Patricia Schuelke	22	Taylynn Bendel




Happy Birthday

Statement of Activities

February 28, 2021

	<u>Current Month Actual</u>	<u>Current Month Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income				
GENERAL OFFERINGS Totals:	23,794.41	25,271.71	37,265.45	50,543.40
MISC. INCOME Totals:	0.18	0.00	0.47	0.00
CAPITAL IMPROVE. INCOME Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BD OF LAY MIN/EVAN Totals:	831.62	1,250.00	2,494.86	2,500.00
BD OF WORSHIP Totals:	0.00	233.34	50.00	466.60
BD OF EDUCATION Totals:	469.88	0.00	469.88	0.00
BD OF STWRDSHP/PARISH FELL. Totals:	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00
BD OF CHURCH PROPERTY Totals:	300.00	0.00	420.00	0.00
BD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS Totals:	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00
INTEREST Totals:	0.05	0.00	0.15	0.00
INCOME Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CD Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BEQUESTS Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Totals:	<u>25,396.16</u>	<u>26,755.05</u>	<u>40,710.85</u>	<u>53,510.00</u>
Expense				
BD OF LAY MIN/EVAN Totals:	16,967.00	17,746.22	34,426.41	35,492.30
BD OF WORSHIP Totals:	369.74	827.09	1,123.94	1,654.10
BD OF EDUCATION Totals:	30.97	925.50	40.32	1,851.00
BD OF STWRDSHP/PARISH FELL. Totals:	26.68	172.91	52.98	345.90
BD OF YOUTH Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BD OF CHURCH PROPERTY Totals:	6,056.88	5,558.35	11,286.41	11,116.50
BD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS Totals:	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	3,000.00
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Totals:	13.88	25.00	27.76	50.00
Expense Totals:	<u>23,465.15</u>	<u>26,755.07</u>	<u>46,957.82</u>	<u>53,509.80</u>
Income - Expense:	<u>1,931.01</u>	<u>(0.02)</u>	<u>(6,246.97)</u>	<u>0.20</u>

Thank you! We appreciate your continued gracious giving.
 Tithes and offerings can be mailed, made online at www.faithlutheranmadison.org
 or PayPal (to faithluthsecretary@gmail.com)

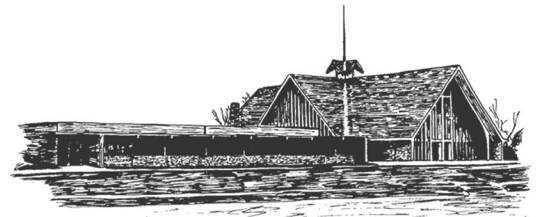
Sun	Mon 1	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4	Fri 5	Sat 6
			9am Hot Muffins 3:30 Joyful Noise Choirs 6pm Bells 7pm Lenten Worship			
7 9am Worship 1-4pm Family Day @ Green Lake Bible Camp	8	9 9:30am Ruth Circle 3:30 Worship Committee	10 9am Hot Muffins 9:30 Lydia/Hannah Circle 6pm Bells 7pm Lenten Worship 8pm Council Mtg.	11 8:30am Do Day	12	13
14 9am Worship 	15	16	17 9am Hot Muffins 3:30 Joyful Noise Choirs 6pm Bells 7pm Lenten Worship	18	19	20
21 9am Worship	22	23	24 9am Hot Muffins 3:30 Joyful Noise Choirs 6pm Bells 7pm Lenten Worship	25 8:30am Do Day	26 	27
28 9am Worship 	29	30	31 9am Hot Muffins 3:30 J.N. Lenten Partner Party 6pm Bells 7pm Lenten Worship			

March 2021

Faith Lutheran Church
106 8th Street
Madison, MN 56256
www.faithlutheranmadison.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship at Faith: 9:00 a.m.

Broadcast on KLQP 92.1 FM: Sundays 11:30 a.m.

Cable Channel 8: Sundays 3:30 p.m.

Facebook: 3:30 p.m. [Faith Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranChurch)

Website: 3:30 p.m. www.faithlutheranchurchmadison.org

Pastor Ron Nichols

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E-mail: faithluthsecretary@gmail.com