

"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.

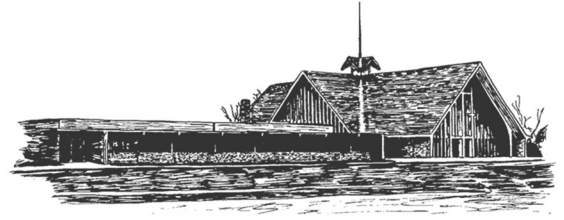
Where do we begin in an attempt to call people home to Faith Lutheran Church? This has to begin with us individually. We must ask ourselves "do we really love God and our neighbor as ourselves?" Does Faith Lutheran as a church and a community of faith "care for the least of these and love our enemies?"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

In April 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

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



Faith Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Ron Nichols

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

Church Office Phone: 320-598-3630

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

E-mail: faithluthsecretary@gmail.com

Facebook: 3:30 p.m. [Faith Lutheran Church](#)

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

COUNCIL REPORT

The Faith Lutheran Church Council met Wednesday, February 9, 2022.

President Ryan Giles welcomed two new members to the Executive Council, Judy Kriese and Steve Dahle.

Pastor Ron reported that the Care Centers are now open to visitors making it easier for him to visit members of Faith Lutheran Church who are there.

Faith Lutheran Church's By-Laws are being revised. The last revision was over 20 years ago and they need to be updated to conform to the new Constitution. The council will review the proposed new By-Laws over the next month and bring questions and suggestions to the next council meeting.

Lorrie Ehrenberg has taken on the duties of financial secretary at five hours a week.

There has been some discussion about needing a boiler inspector for the church. Ryan Giles is following up on that issue.

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

Faith Lutheran Staff & Officers

Pastor Ronald Nichols

Office Staff

Music Director: Linda Anderson

Office Manager: Sharon Ronglien

Financial Secretary: Lorrie Ehrenberg

Education Coordinator: Darcy Daline

Helper: Lisa Strand

Little Blessings Teacher: Kelli Fernholz

Senior Choir Director: Gary Boraas

Executive Council

President: Ryan Giles

Vice-President:

Secretary: Jeanene Munsterman

Treasurer: Becky Mortenson

Judy Kriese

Linda Anderson

Kelly Zahrbock

Melanie Miller

Taylor Shelstad

Steve Dahle

Education Committee

Jodi Kallhoff

Deb Meyer

Jessica Borstad

Becky Mortenson

Darcy Daline

W-ELCA

Kathy Harwick

Karen Nesvold

Eileen Trelstad

Property Committee

Dave Amundson

Ron Toenies

Mark Siekert

Worship Committee

Gail Smith

Linda Anderson

Mary Wodrich

Lorrie Ehrenberg

Jerome Kallhoff

Discipleship Committee

Melanie Miller

Tamara Bissett

Kelly Zahrbock

Brittany Engesmoe

Stewardship Board

Jerome Kallhoff

Darcy Daline

David Kriese

Shirley Hanson

Global Missions

Kris Hanson

Jody Dahle

Stan Olson

Curtis Seefeld

Betty Tollefson

Char Heinzen

Technology Committee

Judy Kriese

Maynard Meyer

Lorrie Ehrenberg

Jeanene Munsterman

Jessica Borstad

Eric Nygard

Ryan Giles

Linda Anderson

Gail Smith

*The Executive Council meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

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

Worship Committee News by Gail Smith

Pick up a Pocket Cross in the Narthex.

A Cross in My Pocket

When I put my hand in my pocket to bring out a coin or key, **the cross is there to remind me of the price He paid for me.** In all that I do and say, it's also a daily reminder of the peace and comfort I share with all who know my Master and give themselves to His care.

Let the Worship Committee help you shop for your Easter flowers. We'll be taking orders before and after church services during Lent in the Narthex. Watch for us. You simply place your order with us and we will pick them up for you. You will be able to take your flower home after the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship service.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Global Missions is on a Mission!! We are asking each of you to prayerfully consider donating to Operation Starfish this year. Operation Starfish is where we partner with Food for the Poor to build a home for a family in desperate need in a Caribbean country. We have often built our homes in Haiti and hope to do so again this year. The Starfish story goes like this ... As a young boy walked along the beach at dawn, he noticed an old man ahead of him picking up starfish and tossing them back into the sea. Catching up with the man, the boy asked why he was doing this? The old man explained to him that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. The boy proceeded to say, " but the beach goes on for miles and there are thousands of starfish , how can you alone make any difference ?" The old man looked at the starfish in his hand, and tossed it safely into the waves. He turned to the boy and said, " I made a difference to that one." (based on the writing of Loren Eiseley) Yes, there are SO many people in the world in need but Faith Lutheran intends to make a difference to one! We would like to raise \$9,800 this year which is a mighty tall order so PRAY and please give generously! For this price, we will be able to build a 2 bedroom home with sanitation, a water component, a living area, a cooking area, a sink, furnishings, lighting and structural elements to withstand severe weather. When we raise this money, there is a match available that will provide \$9,800 of food to other very needy families in the Caribbean. Please check out ALL of the homes that our congregation has built over the years through Food for the Poor . simply AMAZING!!- (across from Pastors office) We can change the whole course of a families lives forever!! There will be donation boxes around church to take home and fill, you can write a check to Faith Lutheran Church with Operation Starfish on the memo line or bring cash to the office for the cause. Operation Starfish will open on March 2 - Ash Wednesday and you will have the opportunity to give through Easter Sunday. Shall we get started ??

Thankyou!

Your Global Missions committee

Ruth Circle- 3/8 @ 9:30am

Hannah/Lydia Circle - 3/9 @ 9:30am

April 19: 1:00 p.m. Spring Gathering-Our Savior's-Montevideo-Watch for further details

Church Fair Stand

To make the 2022 county fair a success we need volunteers.
(men and women of all ages)

Kitchen: These positions could be shared.
1. order kitchen fair food supplies
2. prepare food (meat, soup, potato salad)
3. be in charge of kitchen activities (Tuesday and Wednesday)
There is a step-by-step time-line that can be followed. Helpers will be provided.

Fair Stand
1. be in charge of a work shift (2 in each shift)
2. workers - if you are not contacted please volunteer
3. take pie orders
Sign up will begin in April. This year’s menu and stand hours will depend on the number of volunteers.
We need everyone’s help! Please be sure your phone numbers are accurate.

“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world” - Howard Zinn

* Our annual “Spring Splash” event for area church women will be held May *
* 11 from 5:30-7:30 pm at Faith. Our theme this year is “The Spice of Life”. *
* Guest speaker will be Jerrid Sebesta. Tickets will go on sale in April. *

MARCH

Acolyte

2 - Vyolette & Greta
6- Zoey & Gavin
9 - Marley & Lyndsey
13- Malcolm & Greta
16 - Jax & Malcolm
20 - Lyndsey & Jace
23 - Gavin & Brianna
27 - Macy & Jax
30 - Lyndsey & Greta

Lay Reader

6 - Darcy Daline
13 - Contemporary Group
20 - Stan Olson
27 - Jerome Kallhoff

WORSHIP

Ushers

2 - Team 2
Macy & Lyndsey
6 - Team 1
9 - Nolan & Grant
13 - Team 7
16 - Brianna & Macy
20 - Team 6
23 - Jace & Gavin
27 - Team 5
30 - Vyolette & Marley

Screen

6 - Lorrie
13 - Jeanene
20 - Lorrie
27 - Lorrie

ASSISTANTS

Videographer

2 - Maynard M.
6- Dan W.
13 - Dan L.
20 - Jeff H.
27 - Maynard M.

Communion

2 - Angie A. & Sharon R.
6 - Jody D. & Gail S.
13 - Tammy W. & Sharon R.
20 - Fran S. & Stan O.
27 - Jodi K. & Kathy H.

1	David	Kriese	14	Cory	Loterbauer
1	Terri	Halvorson	14	Cheryl	Redepenning
1	Briar	Brehmer	15	Mark	Diller
3	Hunter	Ludvigson	15	Nancy	Goers
5	Adam	Dvorak	15	Mark	Siegert
6	Gary	Boraas	15	Maxine	Tostenson
6	Steve	Helgemo	16	Sharon	Clark
6	Lori	Engesmoe	16	Malcolm	Lillejord
6	Gayle	Streich	18	Karen	Nesvold
7	Tyler	Shickedanz	19	Blake	Wollschlager
8	Linda	Anderson	20	Elwood	Borstad
8	Ashley	Nicholson	20	Deloris	Churness
8	Brody	Nygard	21	Mary	Wodrich
9	Brent	Borstad	21	Wyatt	Halvorson
9	Blaine	Dvorak	22	Arvid	Gollnick
9	CheeChee	Halvorson	22	Ed	Olson Jr.
10	Helen	Haverberg	22	Joseph	Lund
10	Nathan	Ludvigson	22	Meghan	Flores
11	Shirley	Streich	22	Taylynn	Bendel
13	Todd	Mortenson	23	Russell	Pearson
13	Dan	Wahl	23	Lennon	Weber
13	Patty	Schuelke	24	Jeff	Mortenson
13	Ruth	Myhres	25	Karla	Bormann
14	Lorrie	Ehrenberg	25	Conner	Roggenbuck
14	Randy	Arends	27	Jennifer	Long



Statement of Activities

February 28, 2022

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	YTD Last Year	Last Year Annual Budget
Income						
GENERAL OFFERINGS Totals:	20,674.51	23,639.30	41,200.91	283,671.62	37,265.45	303,260.50
MISC. INCOME Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.47	0.00
CAPITAL IMPROVE. INCOME Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BD OF DISCIPLESHP Totals:	1,714.28	1,250.00	3,022.42	15,000.00	2,494.86	15,000.00
BD OF WORSHIP Totals:	141.00	275.01	479.43	3,300.00	50.00	2,800.00
BD OF EDUCATION Totals:	0.00	33.33	0.00	400.00	410.00	0.00
BD OF STWRDSHP/PARISH FELL. Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.00
BD OF CHURCH PROPERTY Totals:	0.00	241.66	0.00	2,900.00	420.00	0.00
BD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS Totals:	0.00	1,208.33	0.00	14,500.00	10.00	0.00
INTEREST Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.15	0.00
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CD Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BEQUESTS Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Income Totals:	22,529.79	26,647.63	44,703.10	319,771.62	40,650.97	321,060.50
Expense						
BD OF DISCIPLESHP Totals:	1,179.09	17,524.23	21,647.80	210,290.62	34,454.17	213,254.50
BD OF WORSHIP Totals:	84.47	787.52	581.46	9,450.00	1,123.94	9,925.00
BD OF EDUCATION Totals:	146.75	992.17	246.75	11,906.00	40.32	11,106.00
BD OF STWRDSHP/PARISH FELL. Totals:	27.21	172.91	55.08	2,075.00	52.98	2,075.00
BD OF YOUTH Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BD OF CHURCH PROPERTY Totals:	6,555.73	5,670.83	15,726.80	68,050.00	11,286.41	66,700.00
BD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS Totals:	0.00	1,500.00	1,042.00	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense Totals:	7,993.25	26,647.66	39,299.89	319,771.62	46,957.82	321,060.50
Income - Expense:	14,536.54	(0.03)	5,403.21	0.00	(6,306.85)	0.00

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)

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			9am Hot Muffins 3:30-5 pm Joyful Noise 7pm Ash Wednesday Service			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Senior Choir		9:30am Ruth Circle	9am Hot Muffins 9:30am Hannah/Lydia 3:30-5pm Joyful Noise 6pm Faith Ringers 7pm Lenten Service 8pm Church Council	8:30am - 12pm Do Day		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am Worship 10am Sunday School			9am Hot Muffins 3:30-5pm Joyful Noise 6pm Faith Ringers 7pm Lenten Service			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9am Worship 10am Sunday School 10:30am Senior Choir			9am Hot Muffins 3:30-5pm Joyful Noise 6pm Faith Ringers 7pm Lenten Service	8:30am - 12pm Do Day 11:30-12:30 Second Harvest & Meal		
27	28	29	30	31		
9am Worship 10am Sunday School			9am Hot Muffins 3:30-5pm Joyful Noise 6pm Faith Ringers 7pm Lenten Service			

