

Faith Lutheran Church

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"I can't wait for things to get back to normal..."

You've surely heard or even said this phrase not too long ago.

What does a return to normalcy mean to you?

Going back to school? Playing or watching sports? Visiting loved ones without the need for face coverings? Meeting up at your favorite social spot? Some or all of the above? Or how about peace and unity?

Maybe not everything was working as well as we thought...

What, do you pray, doesn't return to normal?

The frequency of handwashing? The way we are inclined to treat one another when frightened or under stress? The idols of leisure and free time that we allowed to take the place of listening to God's Word?

See, there are some things that I hope don't go back to the way they were before. The fellowship worship with other believers was just one weekend option among many. Bible study was for even fewer. Spiritual growth, wellbeing and personal witness were easily moved off the calendar by sports,

How about something that won't change? **The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never end. They are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness.**
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

My family used to be in a regular habit of sharing highs and lows before bedtime. It was a good way to recognize and give thanks for those mercies and blessings and then put the worries into God's hands in prayer. I'll admit it's become more irregular; something that needs to be made normal again.

Why don't we try to turn off the news or the video game for a moment and spend a few minutes listening to Jesus and each other. [Portals of Prayer](#) or [Lutheran Hour Daily Devotions](#) are very brief and a simple way to start.

Find a regular time to call a friend and share highs and lows, blessings and worries. Remind each other of the Lord's goodness and faithfulness. Pray about the worries and fears. (visit [Faith5](#) for a simple pattern to follow)

Whatever personal idols have been exposed, whatever habits need to be broken or returned to normal, Jesus' compassion for you does not fail. Search your ways, confess your sin, and be free in the forgiveness you receive in Jesus' name.

May the Lord permit "our faith toward Him, and our fervent love toward one another" to be our renewed normal.

-Pastor Moyer

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 ESV)

Minutes from Faith Lutheran Church Voters Meeting

June 18, 2020

In attendance — Dean Ayers, Tom and Chris Buckthorpe, Sherry Hanovich, Neil and Laura Hornbacher, Jacque Rhodes, Bill Kiley, Mike Stanley, Sharon Vogel, Bill Erfourth, Steve Tino, Kathy VanGordon, and Guy York

The Voters Assembly was called to order by President, Dean Ayers at 7:00 p.m. Tom started the meeting with our Opening Prayer.

Previous meeting minutes were read by Sherry Hanovich. Chris motioned to accept minutes and all approved.

Pastor's Report – Dean presented Pastor's report. ~Thank you to the leaders at Faith for being supportive. ~Online viewer numbers were as high as 150 in March and from Easter through May they averaged between 60-80. Since reopening our number has dropped to about 30. ~Thank you to elders for staying in contact with our members. ~Kira Haag (Carmen's daughter) has expressed interest in finding/starting a young adult group (18-35).

Board of Education – Laura reported for the BOE. ~VBS will be held outside in parking lot. It will consist of a devotion from pastor, a short lesson, a treat and then a take home activity. Each child will have a foam pad socially distanced from one another.

Board of Outreach – Kathy reported the last two outreach events had to be cancelled due to Pandemic: Food drive – "Sponsor a Shelf" and the Diaper Drive. Contributions were sent to both organizations in lieu of event.

Trustees – Steve reported the trustees are looking at different options to increase the upper lot handicap parking.

Treasurers Report – Bill presented February, March, April and May reports. He noted in March we had a deficit of \$7,200, April deficit \$18,400 and May \$12,200. Chris motioned to accept all the reports, Kathy seconded and all approved.

Steven Ministry – Guy reported that all training activities were put on hold. Stephen Ministers made contact by phone and personal visits will begin this week. Guy would like to start up the second Stephen Minister Training soon.

Music – Jacqueline has been reviewing music for Christmas.

Old Business – Kathy requested an explanation on how the Needy Family Fund is replenished. Bill explained it's replenished by fund raising and member contributions. ~The church picnic is on hold.

New Business – Tom announced softball starts this Monday (June 22) at 6:30. Hot dogs will be served. ~Neil explained the process of producing and uploading Sunday Services takes a lot of time and inquired if Faith wanted to invest in new equipment to speed up the process. Discussion was tabled until Pastor can be part of discussion. ~We will continue to wear masks in the church and for services. We are ready to open church to small groups. Everyone in group must wear a mask and clean and sanitize area after meeting. ~Dean proposed to have Kira Haag start a young adult group and finance their supplies. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by Dean. Tom closed the meeting with our closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 16, 2020 at 7:00, outside church.

Respectively submitted,

Sherry Hanovich, Recording Secretary



**This is what would have been shared at church in July by the Elder speaker.
We thought you would enjoy reading it.**

When we hear names like Moses, Abraham, Job, David, and Solomon, we expect to hear of great deeds and undertakings. And from our perspective, God had given them much. By His work, from them much should have been expected.

But what is our expectation when we hear of some nameless early Christians in Macedonia? They were poor, dirt poor, poor as church mice. They were weary from persecution by unbelievers around them. These people were in a situation where our expectation would be to find them requesting help from those whom God had blessed with much. But this was not the case.

The Apostle Paul wrote regarding the collection for the suffering Christians in Jerusalem,

And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

How was it that the Christians in Macedonia who were in such extreme poverty, suffering persecution, could give so generously, so willingly, and so eagerly? It was because of the grace of God. By the power of the Gospel, the Macedonian Christians had first given themselves to the Lord; then, because of their giving, they did the will of God as He directed. As a result, in their offering for the Christians in Jerusalem, they gave as much as they were able — and more.

And now we can ask ourselves, despite what our situation was and may continue to be during the COVID crises, how did we respond? Did we demonstrate a ***Living Faith*** by sharing with others — not just money, but time and help? Did we call someone just to check in and say hello? Did we prepare and deliver a meal to a neighbor who might not be able to get out or is too afraid to venture out? What did we do as Christians having a ***Living Faith***?

True giving does not begin with the movement of the hand to the purse or wallet or the food pantry or at the moment it is convenient for us. Rather, it begins in the heart. It begins in a heart that has been changed by Holy Baptism. It begins in a heart in which the Holy Spirit is working in Word and Sacrament. It begins in a heart that is relinquished to, and filled with, God's love. It begins in a heart that has a ***Living Faith***.

The crowning point of the Macedonians' generosity was that by the grace of God, their hearts were unconditionally surrendered to His love. And in this love, they were faithful servants, putting all that they had at His disposal, and living a ***Living Faith***.

It is this grace, God's grace, that every Christian should pursue and fervently pray for. Each time before we pray for an abundance of God's grace, we may want to meditate on the blessings we have and the blessings we share — living a "***Living Faith***."

Living Faith Stewardship Campaign

Applying Biblical Teachings

“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will” (2 Cor. 8:1-5).

If you look at the conditions in which the Macedonian Christians lived, you probably would wonder why they had not requested to be remembered with monetary gifts (as had the poor in Jerusalem) by their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. If any group of people were in need, the Macedonian Christians were. Yet, they literally begged to give and then exceeded every expectation as to their ability to give. In proportion, their giving exceeded many who were blessed and had larger sums of money to give. This giving was truly God’s rich grace in action working through His faithful servants who had given themselves without reservation in His service.

What a powerful example the church in Macedonia set for the church of all ages, an example that every Christian should take to heart. Too often today, we see our churches as beggars, constantly having to admonish, plead, urge, coax and prod their members to give just to pay the bills, let alone the sending of monetary gifts to help needy brothers and sisters in Christ. These actions concerning giving are totally foreign to what took place in Macedonia by the power of the Gospel. The love of Christ, the risen Lord and Savior, filled their hearts without restriction, and in Christ’s love, they begged to give, even as they gave evidence concerning the power of the Gospel.

All too often the Law is used to motivate, and the full message of the power of the Gospel becomes distant. That which many of us learned in our youth must never be forgotten. By the power of the Water and the Word, a great change takes place, a change that Martin Luther dramatically captured in his small catechism. By the power of the Gospel, we are moved from restraint into action, from “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me,” to “We love God above all things when with our whole heart we cling to Him as to our God and gladly devote our lives to His service.”

By the power of the Gospel, we are moved from restraint into action, from “Thou shalt not kill,” to “We should help and befriend our neighbor in every bodily need,” and “We should be merciful, kind, and forgiving towards our neighbor.” By the power of the Gospel, we are moved from restraint into action, from “Thou shalt not steal,” to “We should help our neighbor to improve and protect his property and business,” and “We should rejoice when we see him prosper.”

By the power of the Gospel, the Macedonian Christians were moved from restraint into action. Their lives were devoted to the service of God as they cared for their needy brothers and sisters in Christ and begged to help and befriend them. Though others had prospered more than they had, they still rejoiced in their giving as they demonstrated the power of the Gospel.

May God grant each of us a special measure of His grace so that like the Macedonian believers, each day we may serve Him more and more, exceeding all expectations in all that we do, including that of our giving.





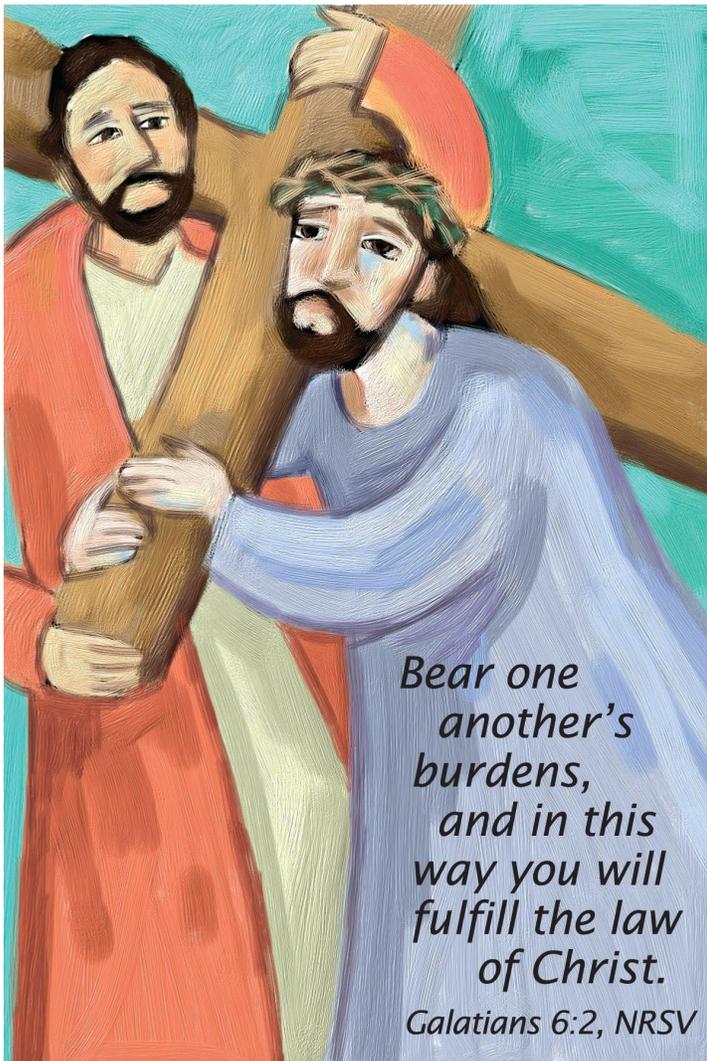
Congratulations to those celebrating birthdays in July:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Dennis Goers | 14 Gail Lowe |
| 1 Connie Schutt | 15 Gwili McDonnell |
| 2 Yvonne Pirozek | 15 Ruby Richards |
| 4 Paige Christensen | 21 Adrienne Stewart |
| 6 Ian Hartsell | 22 Kyle Jones |
| 7 Riley Smith | 24 Pastor Moyer |
| 10 Sharon Vogel | 25 Erin Rickle |
| 11 Anthony Flores | 26 Jo-Ann Ruczynski |
| 11 Carolyn Grunwald | 27 John Dickson |
| 13 Tony Acree | 28 Bob Holloway |
| 13 Jim Steck | 30 Linda Carter |



Congratulations to those celebrating anniversaries in July:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Justin & Andrea Thurm | 7-03-1999 |
| Larry & Connie House | 7-08-1967 |
| Eric & Kim Russell | 7-09-1993 |
| Mike & Phyllis Acree | 7-21-1984 |
| Joe & Linda Hadley | 7-27-1981 |
| Jim & Dawn Scrivo | 7-27-2002 |



*Bear one another's burdens,
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2, NRSV*

The Board of Outreach Ministry had the opportunity to support a local family in need. A social worker from the local school system called with a need for grocery support for a mother who has 3 children, 2 of whom have special needs. The mom's work has been impacted due to COVID-19 business closures. The Outreach Committee unanimously voted to provide a Meijer gift card to the family on behalf of Faith Lutheran. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Please let us know if you hear other needs within the congregation or in our community.

Here is the thank you received from the family we helped out:

We want to send a Thank You !!! 😊

Your kindness helped my kids and myself so much that there really isn't enough words to say thank you! Your help came at such a Big time in need!

Thank you from the top to bottom of our hearts! xoxoxo

Ashley & Kids





NOT ONLINE? NOT A PROBLEM!

If you know someone who cannot access online resources let them know that on Sunday mornings an LCMS worship service is broadcast on the following channels. Check listings for exact times.

Comcast—channel 399

Direct TV—channel 377

Over-the-air Digital Channel—18.4

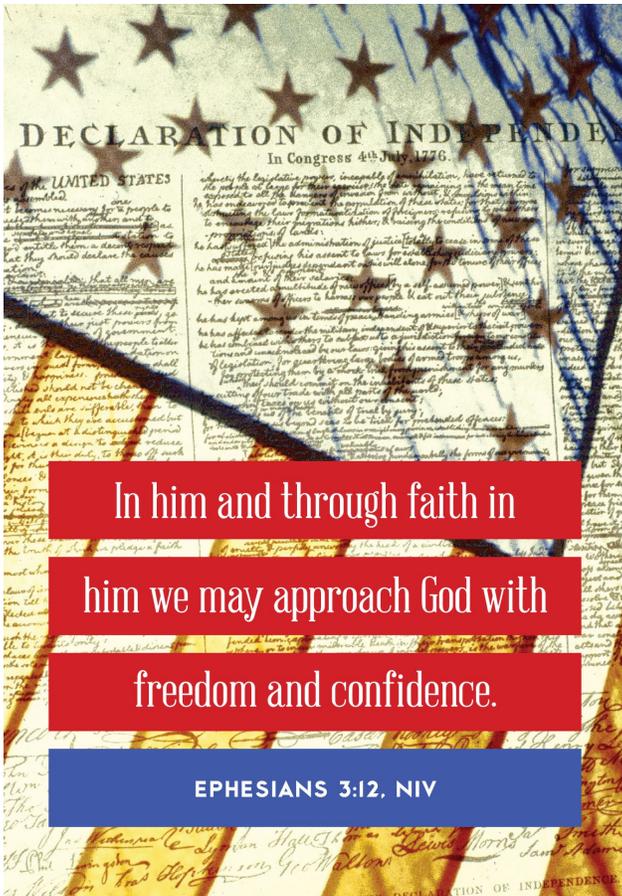
Someone 'with skin on'

My 3-year-old nephew was having a hard time falling asleep at Grandma's house, so my mom lay down beside him for a while. As she started to ease out of the room, his eyes flew open. "You're safe," she reminded him. "Jesus is always with you."

"I know, Grandma," he protested, "but I want someone with skin on!"

That reminded me of a quote by theologian Frederick Buechner: "Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin." God came to us as Jesus — someone "with skin on" — so we would know he understands what it's like to live inside our skin. Now as Jesus' body in the world, we're often called on to be someone "with skin on" to others. Indeed, we're to show them such compassion that we could just as well be wearing their skin.

—Heidi Mann



In him and through faith in

him we may approach God with

freedom and confidence.

EPHESIANS 3:12, NIV

I'M A CHRISTIAN

I am not perfect

I make mistakes

I mess up

**BUT GOD'S GRACE IS
BIGGER THAN MY SINS**

Welcome Back, Faith Family

May 31, 2020



Men's B-n-B

Our Men's B-n-B started back up on June 13 with our devotion and lunch outside at Faith.

We will meet again outside at Faith on Saturday, July 11th with devotion at 11:00 and lunch at 11:30. Please email Bill Erfourth if you plan to attend at: kabiller@comcast.net.

Faith Lutheran Church Highland VBS 2020 IS Happening!

Our dear Faith family ~ We've all faced so many new challenges in the past few months! Planning anything has been hard! Most churches are cancelling or going virtual with their VBS. In light of where we are with the pandemic in our area today, Faith's Board of Education has decided to hold our VBS outdoors, at our church, **July 27-31 from 6:30-7:30p.m.** We want to do this as safely as possible for all involved but still provide some fun and fellowship and our Lord's word to our kids! So our "Praise Party in the Parking Lot" may not include some of our usual VBS activities like crafts and food. The theme will be the Armor of God, *Ephesians 6:11-18*. We're planning a version of our normal opening and closing with a short, fun lesson/message in between. If we have to make the call to cancel an evening due to weather conditions, we will offer a YouTube or Facebook Live event, TBD.



- Maintain a social distance by placing mats and blankets in 6-10' areas for each family group (feel free to bring lawn chairs, umbrellas... sunscreen). Your "group" will be who you come with; we will not be putting the children into our usual Tribe families. Please remind children to use the bathroom prior to coming, just to limit the traffic in and out of the church.
- We will have some fun face shields for the children, but we will leave the decision of necessity to wear them at all times up to each family. Please feel free to bring/wear your own mask and do what your family is most comfortable with during these uncertain times!
- We're still working out the details of parking, coming/going while partying in the parking lot.... Much of our decision will depend on how many families we have in attendance. Thank you for your patience as we work this out and we will get this information to you as quickly as possible.

We will have forms and a link for registrations soon!! Stay tuned for updated information here: <https://faithhighland.com/vbs>

Please know we love you all and will make everyone's safety a priority! We truly just want to provide a little (safe) fun and fellowship and our Lord's word to our kids. But know we will respect the decisions that each family must make for themselves. Pray about it and as always, feel free to contact the church office at 248-887-5550 with any questions, comments, concerns, ideas....

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

F.L.Y. NEWS

A Note from FLY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Can Drive. We apologize to everyone we could not get too. We will not be doing another one any time soon.

Family Game Nite

We'd like to have a Family game night at the Church on **July 10th** starting at **7pm**. Bring your favorite outdoor yard game. Cold water and snacks will be provided.

Join our Faith family on August 10th and 11th for a Faith, fun-filled trip to The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum

Check out <https://arkencounter.com/> for more information on both exciting sites.

Pricing is as follows for tickets:

Adult 18-59 \$79.95

Senior 60+ \$69.95

Youth 11-17 \$44.95

10 and under FREE

HOTEL EST. \$161



If we have a good number interested, we will check on prices for Charter busing.

Please let Patricia Hartsell know by July 12th if you would like to attend.

Fly3501@outlook.com or 810-625-7466

July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 
5 Communion 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship	6 No Softball Today	7 12:00noon AA 8:00pm AA & ALANON	8	9	10	11 11:00am Men's B-n-B at Faith  Men's B-n-B
12 Communion 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship 12:00 Elder's Meeting	13 6:30pm Softball vs. Ore Creek	14 12:00noon AA 8:00pm AA & ALANON	15	16 7:00pm Voters	17	18
19 Communion 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship	20 6:30pm Softball vs. Oak Point of Milford—Team 1	21 12:00noon AA 8:00pm AA & ALANON	22	23	24	25 Softball Play-offs Time TBD
26 Communion 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>Vacation Bible School—The Armor of God Monday—Friday from 6:30—7:30 p.m. In the church parking lot!</p> </div>					
	27	28	29	30	31	



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July 
2020

Light One Candle

On Good Friday 2017, Jeannie Gaffigan, a writer and producer, wife of comedian Jim Gaffigan and a mother of five, learned she had an apple-sized tumor on her brain stem. As a Christian, she knew she needed God's help to face the ordeal — and knew she still had “a lot of work” to do for him. On Easter Monday, the benign mass was removed during a nine-hour operation.

A year earlier, the Gaffigans won a Christopher Award for positive contributions to media. The award's inscription — “Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness” — now has new meaning for Jeannie. “There's an urgency to do things that may be smaller, like lighting one candle, [rather] than these ambitious, huge goals of doing major shows in order to change the world,” she says. “We all want to light a thousand candles, but there's that one candle that's right in front of you that God is presenting for you. Open up your eyes and look at it and light it.”

