

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

The Living Last Supper



The Last Supper will come alive at Faith Lutheran on Sunday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. in a dramatic musical experience presented by members of the Faith Lutheran Congregation and the Faith Choir.

“The Living Last Supper” is a live re-enactment of the classic mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci. It portrays the night in which Jesus and His disciples gathered in the upper room on the eve of the crucifixion. It is where Jesus ate one final meal with His closest companions, and where He revealed that one of them will betray Him before the night is over.

We will hear from each of the disciples, and listen to the story from their perspective. The choir will offer several inspirational anthems.

Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for light refreshments and fellowship. This is open to the public; there is no charge to attend.

You will not want to miss this moving and poignant beginning



Confirmation Questioning—April 22, 2020 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary

Confirmation—Sunday, April 26,

Our 2020 Confirmands

Anna Ablott

Connor Bales

Korin Fawcett

Luke Hodges

Stefan Hopkins

Trey Hutchinson

Alex Ingram

Cade Kaiser

Kate Kramme

Emalee Larson

Caitlin Ott

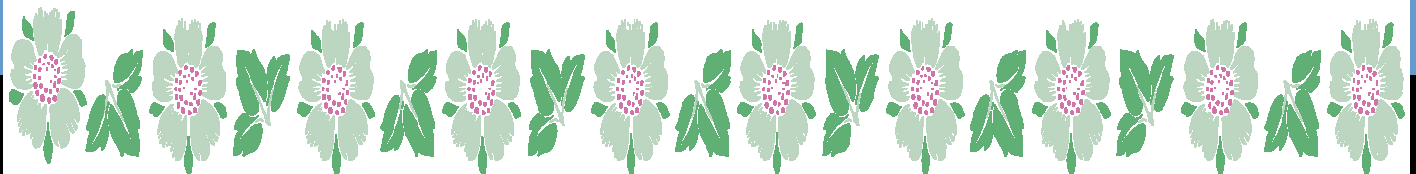
Jackson Ottenbacher

Alexis Rajek

Spencer Skjonsberg

Alexander Zachmeier

Broch Zeeb





Do you ever get the feeling that everything in our world seems upside down? God's Word is ignored. Evil seems to flourish. Illness is rampant. Well, don't feel alone. Many people feel the same. More than that, centuries ago the picture seemed just as bleak. The times in which the Old Testament prophets lived were also gloomy days for God's people.

During that period, the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to Assyrian invaders (722 B.C.). Jerusalem, capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 B.C.). For 70 years the Jews lived in exile in Babylon. Eventually, they were allowed to return to their homeland. Yet their land never again attained the glory it had enjoyed under the kings David and Solomon.

Most tragic of all, the prophets preached among a spiritually bankrupt people. Unbelief, greed, injustice, dishonesty, adultery, broken homes, and even child sacrifice were the order of the day. The prophets' times were not unlike our own. Yet, amid such darkness, the prophets were beacons of hope. While they warned the ungodly, they also comforted believers.

The same can be said of their New Testament counterparts. Like the prophets before them, these New Testament preachers proclaimed God's Word of Law and Gospel to a sinful and corrupt generation. Also like the prophets, these New Testament preachers were persecuted and even put to death by those who claim to be "God's people." (History tells us that all of the Apostles were put to death except one, John, and he was exiled to an island.)

In John 3:16 Jesus Himself summed up the Good News for all ages: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." As we, approach Easter, we are made witnesses of this great love. And even though it was our sins which also put Jesus on that cross, God continues to forgive us, bless us, and sanctify us. And to all of us who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, He promises resurrection and eternal life.

I pray God's continued blessing upon you all, as we together, celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!

Pastor Coy T. Ryz

In Service to Christ
and Neighbor,





“The Bare Altar”

We have been discussing many of the items in the front of the church. But during the month of April, we will remember and celebrate two special days in the life of Christ: Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. As part of that remembrance, the altar and much of the chancel area will be stripped bare. In contrast to the usual exquisite banners, colorful paraments, and magnificent stands, the entire front of the church will look exposed and bare. This month, we pause to contemplate this contrast.

Each of the items we have mentioned have some specific purpose. Generally, they are designed to deliver Christ through your eyes, ears, and on your tongue. But on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the focus of this communication shifts. On Thursday night, the Church is preparing to remember what is both a terrible and wonderful event in Jesus’ life.

The candles will be removed. The linen cloths will be folded up and put away. No sort of decoration will remain. On Good Friday, our Lord was stripped bare and left to die upon a cross. Our altar and our chancel will likewise be bare. Those elements which communicate Christ are still doing their job. But on this day, they focus in on one precise detail. Our Lord was left alone and destitute to die the death of a condemned criminal.

This Maundy Thursday, as our chancel area becomes more and more bare, I want you to remember how Jesus was stripped: his friends and disciples all fled from him in the garden, his supporters were silent as he was tried and condemned, his clothes were removed and gambled away, the sun’s light failed as he hung upon the cross, and even the Father turned away his gaze as his Son died. Jesus was left utterly alone in ways we cannot possibly understand. Our simple, bare altar is trying to communicate this feeling of isolation and abandonment.

Then return on Easter morning. What once was bare will be full of color and life. The banners, the paraments, the Easter lilies will hint at what you already know: Christ is raised from the dead. The objects which aid in our celebration will return in full force, just as our Lord has returned from his rest in the



A PAINTING BROUGHT TO LIFE

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Luke 22:14,15,16

One of Christianity's most significant events was brilliantly portrayed by artist Leonardo DaVinci, who in 1494, was commissioned to decorate the wall of the church of Santa Maria Della Grazie in Milan, Italy. "The Last Supper" is an important and influential painting to Christians worldwide, and one of the most well-known works of art of all time. It depicts Jesus at the center of the table, surrounded by the twelve apostles; the men he chose to be at his side on the eve of his crucifixion. During this time, as Jesus was to share the bread and wine, he informed the disciples that one of them would betray him.

This Renaissance masterpiece will be brought to life on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 5, at 6:30 pm. Parishioners will be given an intimate look into the story of the painting through the voices of Jesus and the disciples. The disciples will speak, each expressing their innermost thoughts about their relationship with Jesus, in brief but poignant monologues. Several musical selections by the choir will passionately capture the event and inspire present day believers.

Jesus will be portrayed by Pastor Handschke, and the disciples will be portrayed by twelve men from our Faith congregation. These gentlemen aren't professional performers, and for some, this is the first time they have done anything like this. They are flesh and blood, just as the twelve disciples were. This should bring home, even more vividly, the fact that the disciples were humble, ordinary men who found themselves in an extraordinary situation.

The Living Last Supper was first presented at Faith in 2013, and again in 2017. This will be the third and final time this dramatization will be shared. If one studies the painting carefully, it becomes clear that DaVinci intended many things to be depicted in sets of three, which reflects the Holy Trinity. This includes the grouping of the disciples. In the live presentation, the disciples will speak in groups of three. It makes sense that this will be the third and last time for the program.

It is a moving and thoughtful way to begin Holy Week; especially, given the times we are presently living in. The Living Last Supper is open to the public, and there is no charge to attend. A reception will follow the presentation.

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
One cup of blessing which we bless.



Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Preschool News

Finally! Spring weather! As if God would ever break His promise of Spring! Everyone seems to be in a better mood and looking forward to outside activities again!

We have had a busy month at preschool and April is no exception! In April, we will be learning about the Easter story, the color purple, the oval shape, the number 4 and the letters Q,Y,Z. The highlight of this month is new life and animals, what a great way to explore God's wonderful creation! We will also take a spring walk to look at all the beauty in God's creation.

We are in the middle of registration for next fall! We are almost full in our MTW morning class but still have some space in our MTW afternoon class and our Thursday/Friday morning class! If you are still interested in signing up your child please do it soon, as space does fill up quickly.

Thank you to all of you for collecting the Dakotamart receipts. Every penny helps! God's blessings to each of you as you enjoy this beautiful spring weather and experience the joy of the Easter season.



Hope LaForest, Director/teacher
preschool@faithluth.com



Palm Cross Assembly

If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go

He is Risen!

Passover Meal

April 6, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Come, begin Holy Week as we remember the Historic Passover meal. We will eat the historic foods, follow a historic service and sing songs that celebrate this historic meal that Christ had with His disciples the night He gave us the Lord's Supper. There is a sign-up in the



much quicker. It is a fun time of fellowship for the many who come each year.

There will be some veteran folders on hand to help show everyone how to fold the crosses.

Please bring a pair of scissors with you.

Good Friday Schedule

5:30 pm-6:30 pm

Official Acts

Funeral

John Ray Sundahl 3/13/2020

3rd Annual Mexico Mission Trip

If the Holy Spirit has been tugging at your heart to go on the Mexico Mission trip, please come talk to Dennis or Carolyn Ryckman. The dates have changed this year to the week of August 1st through August 8th.

The team will stay at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso, TX and we will build a home for a poverty stricken family in Juarez, hand out Bibles, distribute food, and so much

more. We pray that you will consider this life changing experience, and we especially pray that every teenager at Faith Lutheran will be encouraged to encounter this experience as we love our neighbors on the border. It will be a week you will never forget.

Mexico Mission Trip - Sign-up Deadline:

We would like to have a tentative list of who is going by the end of April so that we can make our reservations and begin our spring fundraising.

Spring Yard Work - Rent-A-Worker

Also be watching in the Narthex for information about our spring rent-a-worker program. We will again be doing yard clean-up, power-raking, window cleaning, small odd jobs,

Softball League

Faith Lutheran is again planning to have a men's softball team. We need a few more players to fill the roster. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Dennis Ryckman as soon as possible. Must have parent's permission if under 18. The team plays on Friday nights during the summer months of May to early August. Factor 360 is also looking for another business to help co-sponsor the team registra-



Women of Faith: Upcoming Events for your involvement

Women of Faith News (survey)

LWML Auxiliary Members

In order to become better acquainted with each other and to be of greater service, our LWML has developed an auxiliary that includes all women of the congregation. Each woman who is not a member of a Circle has been assigned to one of the Circles as an auxiliary member. As an Auxiliary member, you may be asked to assist Circle members in performing service, such as serving Sunday morning coffee, Maryhouse coffee, funerals and other functions. If you wish to volunteer to help with specific events or projects, please call the chairman or any member of the circle. Auxiliary members are invited to visit or join any one of our circles. A list of all the auxiliary members and the Circle they are under can be found in the LWML handbook, or posted in the glass case in the entry by the office. This survey will be handed out to the congregation and collected on April 5 (Palm Sunday) and April 19. You may also turn in this copy at the office if you like.

FUNERAL SERVICE WORKERS

We are looking for members to help with our funeral meals here at Faith Lutheran. In the past, our LWML circles have done this serving within their groups, however, the task is becoming more difficult for these dedicated women. Please sign up to help in our efforts to continue this wonderful service for families who are grieving the loss of their loved one. This is for all members of the congregation - men and women alike! We need members to help with set up, serve and clean up or both. Thank you for your willingness to help!!

Name

Phone (both land line and cell if applicable)

Email address

Days or times that work best

I can help:

- Set up and serve
- Clean up
- Both

This is a commitment to help with the set up, serving and clean up the day of the funeral services. Please note that the Circles may still be calling their auxiliary members for food to be furnished for a funeral.

LWML NEWS

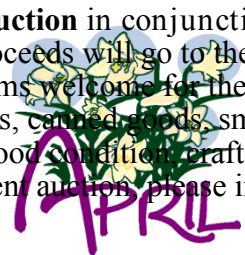
LWML welcomes Julie Moore from Avera Suicide Prevention Program as a guest speaker at our April 8th meeting. LWML will be holding a Silent Auction that night in the fellowship hall. The proceeds will benefit Pierre Area Referral going specifically for Hygiene items. Baked goods and gently used White Elephant items are welcome on the Silent Auction. Please join us for the evening.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING Monday, April 13 @ 7:00 PM Faith Lutheran Church

Presenter Lisa Heth is the Executive Director of the Pathway Center in central South Dakota.

Learn about the issue of human trafficking, and how the Pathway Center is helping victims recover. The Pathway Center provides a place of refuge for victims of human trafficking from all over South Dakota, and helps those they serve gain a sense of self-worth. Ms. Heth has worked in the field of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse for over 24 years, and has won numerous awards for her work as an advocate for victims of crime.

Silent Auction in conjunction with the presentation; proceeds will go to the Pathway Center. Donations of items welcome for the auction, including: Baked goods, canned goods, small white elephant items in good condition, crafts (if donating crafts for the silent auction, please include a suggested price).



Circuit Bible Camp
More information to come!

Camp Minneboji
June 21-27, 2020
Theme: "Washed"

Website: www.minneboji.com

Registrations are on the information table in the Narthex. **Registration forms deadline is May 1.** Sign up early as



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at Faith. Open to anyone in high school and is intended to be a safe place where high school aged youth can come together to spend time and fellowship together as young Christians each week. Pastor Handschke and Michael Shoup lead the group. If you have an activity that you would like to do, please let

ACOLYTES FOR APRIL



April 5

Early: Jacob Larson and Elliot Leif
Late: Cassidy Miller and Carissa Ott

April 12 (8:20AM, 11:00AM Easter Services)

I am looking for 3 acolytes at each service. If your student will be available please call me

April 19

Early: Kamden Carter and Kaycee Carter
Late: Joshua Ryckman and Daysen Titze

April 26

Early: Paige Brandt and Nathan Shoup

