

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

Holy Week Worship



Maundy Thursday

April 14, 2022

Worship Services with Communion

11:00 am and 7:00 pm



Good Friday

April 15, 2022

Worship Services

7:00 pm



Easter

April 17, 2022

Worship Services

8:30 am and 11:00 am

Our 2022 Confirmands

Sophia Bales

Jayden Brandt

Kaden Cumbow

Chloe Fuerst

Stephanie Gossman

Jaydon McPherson

Kinslee Pfeffer

Seth Shoup

Rebecca Spitzer

Olivya Yaeger

Confirmation Questioning—April 20, 2022 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

Confirmation—
Sunday, April 24, 2022
at the 11:00 worship



“Many Gifts, Many Hands”

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:6-8).

God has given each one of us the gifts of our bodies, talents, skills, and knowledge. While he gives these gifts to everyone, the type of gift differs for each person. No one else on earth is exactly like you. You are the only creation with your particular mix of talents, skills, and knowledge. God designed you, along with everyone else, intentionally, purposefully, and specifically. He created you the way that he wanted.

Our stained glass window shows hands engaged in five different activities. How you use your hands is not the important part. Each of these hands is exercising the same Christian love. God is not more pleased in any one of these sets of hands. He does not love people who use a certain skill or gift more than other people who have another gift. Our human nature wants to rank gifts, especially in the church. “I am not like that person who really seems to be doing a lot.” That might be true, but it is not the point. You are not that person. God made sure of it. You are you.

God expects you to use your hands according to the gifts that he has given you. St. Paul says that in our opening verse. Whichever way God has blessed you, use it to his glory. It might mean swinging a hammer, feeding cattle, sewing dresses, drinking coffee with friends, or many, many more. I could not begin to list every way to show Christian love. The diversity of our expression of love is matched by the diversity of gifts that God has given to everyone. One of the joys of being a Christian is discovering how God has blessed you and then realizing how you can glorify him with that gift.

I encourage you to continue putting your hands to use at Faith. We have lots of different opportunities to serve our Lord. Just like the gifts that God gives, how you help will look different from how another person helps. Keep your eyes and ears open for the needs of God’s people. Then pray that God gives you the courage to use his gifts. He might be prompting you to help in a new way. God will bless both you and the way that you serve.

Pastor Sam



A NEW DAY

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lord. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9 & 10

Following a short battle with dementia and taking in little to no food, Mom left her earthly life of 95 years and went home to Jesus. After a hospitalization in April, and being moved from assisted living to long term care, she slowly deteriorated. I saw her early in January; read her Christmas cards aloud to her and played the piano for her and Dad. She was very weak, but was aware and we were able to have a short conversation.

In mid-February, while I was in Chamberlain accompanying Riggs students for Small Group Contest, I had a missed call from long term care, followed by a text from my brother. Mom was non-responsive; respirations were infrequent and the end was near. Early the next morning, I took off and made the seven-hour drive home to Minnesota. I entered Mom’s room and she looked so peaceful. The hospice nurses had arranged her room in such an appealing way. Soft music was playing. A lovely quilt covered Mom and she was obviously comfortable. I talked to her but there was no response.

Later in the afternoon the hospice nurse arrived to provide comfort care. Her calm demeanor made me relax. Shortly after, my brother arrived, and then our pastor, who had been visiting with Dad, entered the room. He took Mom’s hand, read Scripture to her, prayed, and finally blessed and marked her with the sign of the cross. I knew Mom was going to the place Jesus had prepared for her.

*“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” the watchmen on the heights are crying; “Awake, Jerusalem, at last!”
Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices; “Come forth, ye virgins, night is past!”
The Bridegroom comes; awake, your lamps with gladness take; Alleluia! And for His marriage feast prepare, for you must go to meet Him there.”*

I had to head back to South Dakota sooner than I planned because a winter storm was moving in. Mom was still with us, but I knew she was safe and that gave me comfort. I had been told to keep my phone close. A few days passed with no news. I was at choir rehearsal preparing for Ash Wednesday. At the end of rehearsal, I offered a devotion from a book, “The One Year Book of Hymns.” The hymn for February 22nd was “Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying.” I read the three verses of the hymn to the choir, followed by the short devotion. I have always associated that hymn with Advent, but didn’t really give it a thought that I was reading it in February. Rehearsal ended and I went home for the evening. I was sound asleep when my cell phone woke me: Midnight. 12:00 am. Mom had left us a few minutes before. I visited briefly with the nurse, hung up, and all I could think of was “Midnight hears the welcome voices.” Mom was at the marriage feast in the presence of the Bridegroom.

Later that morning, I looked up the hymn in the Lutheran Service Book — LSB516. It is not in the Advent section, but in End Times. It was penned by Philipp Nicolai, a pastor in Unna, Germany, at the time a terrible plague hit the town (1597-1598). He often watched and participated in the burial of friends and parishioners each day. During that difficult time, he wrote this hymn. He looked forward to a day when disease and death would be past, when rejoicing and feasting would carry the day. Christ had given him an eternal perspective on this present life.

We will soon be celebrating Easter, the day when Jesus rose from the grave. Death could not hold Him. He gave His life to redeem us, to buy us back from our slavery to sin. Death has been swallowed up in victory! Because of His resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life — salvation! We, too, will enter the marriage feast.

Karen Lindbloom



A Message From Pastor Rajek

Dear Members of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church,

It seems like only yesterday that I accepted the Call to serve as your pastor. I remember that day fondly. Yes, it was cold! But the love you had for me as your vicar warmed my heart and no doubt played a role in the decision to accept the Call to be your senior pastor. You are a gift to me and, more importantly, to Christ's Church!

In some ways, I felt like there was more work for me to do as your pastor since nearly two years of my time in Pierre was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet, through it all, God remained faithful to us just as He had promised.

The evidence of God's promise for me came in the form of your recent generosity. Your gift of financial support, prayers, and kindness (especially through the Fed By Faith program) brought hope and encouragement in a time of chaos and uncertainty. I am thankful to God for you! Your gift of love has encouraged and empowered the mission and ministry that we do together and is a tangible example of Christ's love alive in the world today.

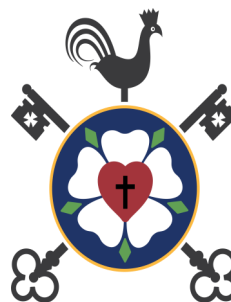
God continues to bless the Riga Luther Academy as we continue to have people from many different countries approach us wanting to hear about our Savior, Jesus. Most recently, we welcomed Krishna from a remote region in Nepal. The closest metropolitan city is Kathmandu (some 14 hours away)! Your support will help students like Krishna, and many others, share the message of Jesus Christ crucified to their local communities. What a blessing it is to know that you are making a real difference in the lives of so many!

Even in difficult times, I celebrate our partnership in making Christ known to the nations. Indeed, God can and does span the distance between us, and He is always here, even when we are feeling down. This

ministry continues because of your gift. As we make our way through the challenges of this world, let us remember that we are not alone. We are a community of faith, in ministry together.

Allow me to close with St. Paul's encouragement to the Church of Galatia, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (6:10)

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Cory J. Rajek, Ph.D.

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Palm Cross Assembly

If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, April 9 at 8:30 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go 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.



Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Preschool News

Spring is finally here! I am looking forward to taking short walks with the kids and finding sightings of spring!

We have a busy month planned in April. We will be finishing up learning the alphabet with letters U, R, C and Z. We will also be talking about the color pink and shape octagon. Most importantly in April we will be learning about Easter and all the sacrifices Jesus made for us. I love being able to talk about the true meaning of Easter with all the children.

We still have a few openings for next years preschool, if you know anyone in need send them our way. We would love to have them.

God's blessings to all of you as we enjoy the beautiful spring weather and experience the joy of Easter season.

Kelsey Kampfe
Preschool Director/Teacher



He's Risen!

Daycare News

Greetings!

In March we hosted our Butter Braid Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported us through this fundraiser! We made over a \$2500 profit. This will take care of most of - if not all of - the cost of the handwashing sinks we need. We are hoping we will have these by the end of April! We also switched our entire waiting list over to a new system. This was quite a bit of work as you can imagine; we had over 106 families on our waiting list and had to contact the majority of them for missing information. However, it was totally worth it! This system sorts the children according to age, the time they were put on the waiting list, and what priority they are set at (current staff and families are priority 1 and 2 so they sit at the top of the list). It also allows parents to sign themselves up or remove themselves from the list as well as create a "Parent Portal" so that they can keep up to date on where they are on the list. This will make it so much easier for those in the community looking for care to get on a waiting list right away, as well as for me in keeping track of everyone and

keeping it up to date! It's a huge improvement from the simple Excel spreadsheet we have used in the past.

April Curriculum Themes:

April 4th – April 15th :

ABCDEaster

Bible Story: *Easter Story* –

Concept: Jesus Died for our sins

April 18th – April 29th : 123 Chicks 'N Puddles

Bible Story: *Jesus Heals the*

Blind Man with Mud – Concept:

We need spiritual sight. God works in different ways.

May 2nd – May 13th : Animals

Bible Story: *Daniel and the Li-*

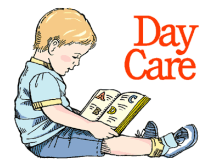
on's Den – Concept: Sometimes

people will try to trick us because we love God. We should be faithful in prayer. God is always able to protect us.

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!

Moriah Kiepke

daycare@faithluth.com



Official Acts

Baptism

River Daniel Reiman

3/27/22

Brynlee Ann Pease

4/10/2022

Visitation Pastor

As of Monday, March 7, with the approval of Pastor Handschke and our Board of Elders, Pastor Urbach will be serving our parish as our Visitation Pastor. As such, he will assist Pastor Handschke with shut-in visitation, visitation of retired members, hospital calls, follow-up visitation for hospital calls and post-funeral Pastoral care.

Pastor Urbach will generally preach once a month to help Pastor Sam with the many tasks that he has.



Forever Young

As we are still in Lent, our **Forever Young** meal for April will be the first Wednesday in April, April 6.

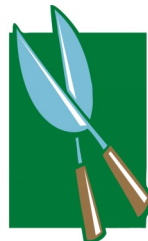
Forever Young is a group of retired and semi-retired members who get together once a month for food and fellowship. Please join us for a potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share. Hope to see you there!



Mexico Mission Trip Spring Yard Work – Rent-A-Worker



Be watching in the Narthex for information about our spring rent-a-worker program. We will again be doing yard cleanup, power-raking, window cleaning, small odd jobs, and other fund raising opportunities for you to support this mission financially.



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 at 222-7713 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 registration fee.



COMPASSION SUNDAY

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Compassion Sunday on Sunday May 1, 2022.

Compassion has more than 1 million alumni around the world whose lives have been changed. They are doctors, lawyers, government workers and community leaders. Research indicates that sponsorship is a reliable and effective way to help children. But Compassion goes further by working exclusively through local churches to deliver the program. The program cares for children's spiritual and physical needs—all through a local church just like ours. Plus, Compassion submits an annual audit, and sends field auditors to thousands of program sites each year to ensure our funds are used properly and only to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Compassion is 100% committed to working with local churches—and have over 7,000 evangelical Christian church partners overseas delivering services and ministry to more than 2 million children. For more information, check out compassion.com/financial.

There will be many packets on the table in the Living Room with descriptions of a child in need of support. Check them out before, after, or between services.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3 NIV



This is a great opportunity to live out God's call to care for the poor. As a sponsor, not only will you help support a child's growth and development, but you also will build a relationship with him or her. Through letters, you can remind a child that you love them, that God loves them and that there is hope.

POVERTY FACTS

Worldwide, **385 million** children live in extreme poverty.
 Every **2 minutes**, a child dies of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease.
 An estimated **61 million** primary school age children worldwide don't attend school.
 Around **45%** of deaths of children under 5 are linked to undernutrition.
 Globally, **2.1 billion** people don't have safe water at home.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8 NIV



LWML EVENT

You're invited to a free event hosted by Faith Lutheran's LWML on Monday, April 11 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Author Vona Johnson, a member of the Faith congregation, will be the guest speaker. She'll explain how she came to write her book, "Stepping Out in Faith", and will provide an overview of what the book is about and why it's relevant in today's world. Copies of her book will be available that evening.

There will also be a silent auction to raise funds for supplies for the "little dresses for Mexico" project. Donations of items for the silent auction are welcome, such as baked goods, crafts, and nice used items. Refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free evening of fun and fellowship!



FAITH'S YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at Faith. Open to anyone in eighth grade through 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 them know! Creativity is



EASTER