

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER



A LIVING LAST SUPPER

On Palm Sunday evening, April 2, at 6:30, the congregation is cordially invited and encouraged to attend a dramatic musical experience presented by Faith Choir and the Board of Elders. Known as The Living Last Supper, it will be a living re-enactment of the famous painting by Leonardo DaVinci.

On this night we will reflect upon and remember the events of long ago in the upper room, where Jesus gathered with his closest companions. This is where Jesus ate one final meal with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion, and was betrayed by one of his own.

The story presented is a story of the Twelve, pieced together from Scripture, from history, and from the tradition that has been handed down from the beginning of the church. We will hear from each of the disciples and listen to the story from their perspective. The speaking parts are meant to allow us to hear the inner thoughts of each man. Faith Music Ministry will offer several inspirational anthems that will allow all of us to ponder upon our own relationship with Christ.

Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity for gathering and light refreshments. You will not want to miss this moving and poignant beginning to your Holy Week experience.

Our 2023 Confirmands

Kaylee Marie Blauert

Samuel Aaron Larson

Noah Riley Neyhart

Jonas Ryan Olson

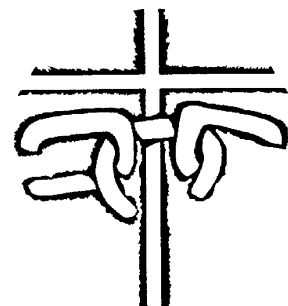
Jaden Walter Ottenbacher

Shaylee Morgan Speck

Bryant Blaire Zeeb

Confirmation Questioning—April 26, 2023 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

Confirmation—Sunday, April 30, 2023 at the 11:00 worship service



I Do, By the Grace of God

Later this month, our confirmation students will speak these words. They are given in response to several questions about continuing in the life of faith. Every year, we at Faith have a new group of students who have begun their training as Christians and make a pledge to continue learning and growing in love for Christ. If you have a hymnal at home, or the next time you are in worship, I encourage you to review the Rite of Confirmation (LSB page 272). Then glance through the Rite of Holy Baptism (LSB page 268) and notice the similarities.

One of the things you might notice is that the word “confirmation” does not appear even once in the rite. It is not spoken either by me as their pastor or by the students being confirmed. They are acknowledging what had occurred in their baptism and their ongoing intent to remain students of the Lord. That is where the words of the title come in. I will ask them, “Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord’s Supper faithfully?” to which they will answer, “I do, by the grace of God.” If you attend the confirmation service (April 30 at 11AM), I encourage you to affirm your own personal answer. Even though the rite of confirmation is a single event, the pledge is ongoing. As you attend worship, you are fulfilling your confirmation vows that you spoke on that day.

When we leave worship, we are in a constant pull away from God’s Word and communion. The devil will throw out many different options to keep us away from God. The world provides us with plenty of other ideas for what we can be doing. It will affirm that we are good people and we can do just fine without God and his gifts. Our selfishness wants to think that if we *whatever* enough, we do not need to return to God. We need something more powerful than all of these if we have any hope of honoring our pledge. Fortunately, the pledge itself shows us where to turn: the grace of God.

There is a subtle shift in responses during the rite of confirmation. The students begin by showing what they know and believe: “Yes, I do,” “Yes, I believe,” and “I do” are all answers to the first questions. These are all cognitive thoughts, statements of faith that they agree with. Then the rite asks questions of intent and behavior. Am I going to enter God’s presence in worship? Am I going to honor him by hearing his Word? Am I going to be strengthened in the journey of life by receiving communion? At our best times, we can confidently answer yes. But in the reality of life, we do not always live up to our answer. God’s grace urges us to return. “You seem tired,” the Holy Spirit announces, “Come and join me so that I can refill you.” God’s Word and the body and blood of our Savior refresh and restore us. God’s grace brings us again and again to be reunited with him.

What exactly are we “confirming,” since the word is never used? We are confirming our dependence on God and his grace. We are confirming that God’s Word and communion are the gifts that sustain our bodies and souls. We are confirming that God invites us to join him. We are confirming that we intend to continue loving Christ until the day of our death. By his grace, he will accomplish this in us. *Pastor Sam*



Temporary Residents

*"Hear my prayer, O Lord, listen to my cry for help;
be not deaf to my weeping.
For I dwell with you as an alien, a stranger, as all
my fathers were." Psalm 39:12*

A few weeks ago, our women's ensemble sang an arrangement of "Wayfarin' Stranger." I did a little research on the music itself, and it's regarded as an Appalachian folk hymn. The text and melody are part of the Christian Songster 1858.

*I'm just a poor wayfarin' stranger,
a trav'lin' through this world of woe.
But there's no sickness, toil,
or danger in that bright land to which I go.
I'm goin' there to see my father,
I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm only goin' over Jordan, I'm only goin' over home.*

Further research indicated that it is one of the most-loved gospel folk songs in America; a Christian hymn that arose from an African American spiritual song of the 19th century. It's obvious that it is a favorite of the Black people as well as the white people. Over the years, I've developed a real appreciation for Early American folk and Black gospel music. The texts are simple. Today's composers put their own spin on the music in a variety of ways and styles, but always to make the text come alive.

*I know dark clouds will gather o'er me,
I know my way is rough and steep.
But beauteous fields lie just before me,
where souls redeemed their vigil keep.
I'm goin' there to see my mother,
she said she'd meet me when I come.
I'm only goin' over Jordan, I'm only goin' over home.*

The text illustrates the life of a Christian longing for a home in God's Kingdom after being a "wayfaring stranger" on earth. The author of this modest prayer wants to walk with and like God. A wayfarer is a sojourner, a pilgrim passing through; one who is a temporary resident here on earth. A traveler.

*I want to sing salvation's story,
in concert with the blood-washed band.*

*I want to wear a crown of glory
when I get home to that good land.
I'm goin' there to see my brothers
passed before me one by one.*

I'm only goin' over Jordan, I'm only goin' over home.

"Over Jordan" refers to a freedom that comes after a long season of adversity and waiting. Slaves often sang of "going home," meaning they were looking forward to their freedom. Consider the Israelites who, in the Old Testament, literally roamed in a wilderness of heat, hunger and exhaustion over a 40-year multi-generational saga. The Jordan River represented a turning point on the way to freedom. The Israelites were reaching the last leg of their journey through the wilderness enroute to the promised land.

*I'll soon be free from every trial,
this form will rest beneath the sod.*

*I'll drop the cross of self-denial
and enter in my home with God.*

*I'm goin' there to see my Savior,
who shed for me His precious blood.*

I'm only goin' over Jordan, I'm only goin' over home.

Jesus himself tells us that in this earthly life we will have trouble. We all have experienced being in the wilderness, a well-worn path of bitterness, hopelessness and defeat. We might be stuck in a situation; a place in life where there is lack of fulfillment in a relationship. Maybe it's declining health; an unsatisfying career; giving up hope that things will change for the better. Perhaps it's falling into depression, being a lost soul. But Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Karen Lindbloom



This and That

Palm Cross Assembly

If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, April 1 at 8:30 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go more quickly. 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.

We will meet downstairs in the great room at the bottom of the stairs.

Please bring a pair of scissors with you.



HVAC UPDATE

As of March 20, 2023 there is about \$33,000 in the HVAC account. We still have quite a way to go before reaching our goal of just over \$83,000. Any size gifts given are appreciated!

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.



Preschool News

YAY! We finally see spring! In the month of April, we hope to get out and go on some walks to find sightings of spring. We have a busy month planned with learning our final letters R, C & Z, we will also be talking about the color purple and the shape octagon.

Most importantly this month we will be talking about Easter and Jesus' sacrifices he made for us and our sins. I love being able to talk about Easter with all the kids and the wonderful things we get to do thanks to Jesus.

A few fun things as we wrap up our school year is the kids will be getting to have ZESTO for the letter Z, and the two Kindergarten readiness classes will be taking a field trip to the Discovery Center.

We still have a few openings for next year's 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 the Easter season.

Kelsey Kampfe
Preschool Director/Teacher



He's Risen!

Daycare News

In March we hosted our Butter Braid Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported us through this fundraiser! We made just shy of \$3000 profit. This will definitely make the conference we are attending in September more affordable for our teachers! We are hoping we will have these by the end of March!

Our waitlist continues to grow, and we would love to get some more of the children in our program, but we need staff. If you could continue to spread the word that we are needing teachers this would be amazing. We have started our little gardens in all classrooms, and we will be transplanting them to our raised gardens when they are ready. We had a family that donated time and materials to make these beds for us. We are truly blessed to have the support from all of the

church members.

April Curriculum Themes:
ABCDEaster

Bible Story: *Easter Story* –
Concept: Jesus Died for our sins

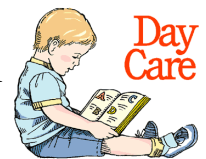
Weather

Bible Story: *Jesus Heals the Blind Man with Mud* –
Concept: We need spiritual sight. God works in different ways.

1, 2, 3 Chicks and Puddles

Bible Story: *Daniel and the Lion'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!



Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen
daycare@faithluth.com

Official Acts

Baptism

Deaths

Gloria Lawrence 3/4/23

Harlan Fransen 3/12/23



Men's Club



Forever Young
Our **Forever Young** meal for April will be the third Thursday in April, April 20.

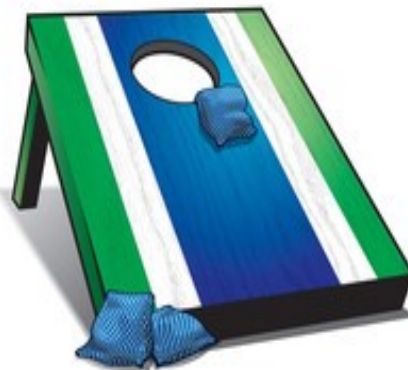
Forever Young is a group of retired and semi-retired members who get together once a month for food and fellowship. Please join us for a potluck luncheon.

Bring a dish to share. Hope to see you there!

Our Men's Club will meet on April 10 to accommodate the Passover Meal on Monday, April 3. We will be throwing some bean bags. Let's warm up those throwing arms! Please bring a snack to share.



POTLUCK DINNER FOR SENIORS



SPRING CAMPUS CLEAN-UP

Our Board of Property Management is planning to have a campus clean-up on April 15 and 22.

We need many hands to do yardwork, outdoor maintenance, and some indoor projects that the Board has deemed need to be handled. Breakfast included!!!

COMPASSION SUNDAY

Faith Lutheran will be hosting a Compassion Sunday on Sunday May 7, 2023.

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



