

Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | April 2026



HAPPY
Easter
... he has risen,
just as he said.
Matthew 28:6

EntheosWeb.com



Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear Faith Family,

An early church father by the name of Clement of Alexandria, who lived in the second and third century wrote a hymn called, "Shepherd of Tender Youth." Throughout the centuries, millions have read, sung, and reflected on these words.

Read the words to the first verse:

"Shepherd of tender youth, guiding in love and truth through devious ways; Christ our triumphant king, we come Your name to sing. And here our children bring to join Your praise."

It is a joy when I see parents and grandparents at church to guide them to Jesus. I believe children are a treasure from Jesus and we learn from them in many ways. We teach God's Word at our school and Sunday School.

On Sunday, April 19th, we are observing Confirmation Day for two youths as they will profess their faith they were given to them at their baptism. I invite you to come and support and pray for them as we ask God to make their faith strong.

If you come to church early or have time during the communion distribution, I encourage you to read the rest of the hymn named "Shepherd of Tender Youth. (Lutheran Service Hymnal #864)

Let Jesus be our guide, our shepherd and our pride,
Pastor Hoepfner

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Calendar



**Faith Lutheran
Church and School**

Bringing People Together in Faith

*"Raise up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from his ways."
Proverbs 22:6*

Mission Statement

Faith Lutheran Church and School exists to worship, serve and grow in Jesus Christ.
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Email: faithlutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com • Website: www.faithlutheranwatertown.com

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LCMS

Announcements

Our English District is launching a new model for funding missions to which every congregation is invited to participate. It is completely voluntary but we believe that as God's people see and hear what is being accomplished specifically and directly in support and development of new missions and enhancing existing missions, more and more of us will want to be involved. This funding model is based on the belief that "there is power and strength in many giving a little." Loving our neighbor includes caring for their spiritual well-being. This is why the need exists for God's people to come together in support of missions that are bearing kingdom fruit. It's simple. Very simple. It is NOT burdensome, nor sacrificial. It involves every baptized member of the Body of Jesus in your congregation, from the newest baby baptized to the oldest member. It demonstrates the power of the beautiful body of Christ working together, prompted by faith. It shows how much can be accomplished by many, giving little. \$1/per baptized member/per week. Simple, right? Self-explanatory almost. Not burdensome, nor sacrificial. All can participate. If every baptized member of our district congregations did ONLY this plan, we could produce \$2.5 million in addition to our district's total budget of \$1.8 million. The numbers are staggering. Just think what else we could do! Through the next year, Faith Lutheran will adapt this new model. There will be a plastic case in the back of the church where the money can be placed. This will replace our current mission of the month program.

- Join us for our Maundy Thursday (April 2) and Good Friday (April 3) services at 6 pm.
- Easter breakfast is at 8 am and service will be at 9 am on April 5th.
- You're invited to be part of our annual Spaghetti Dinner/Trivia Night on Friday, April 17th from 5-9 pm. You can register as an individual for \$20 or register a whole table of 8 for \$140. There are only 8 tables available, so register early by emailing the church office! We are looking for volunteers to help with the event with cooking, serving and clean up. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Also, there is a sign up sheet to donate any baked goods for the bake sale!
- Church Council will meet on Sunday, April 19th at 8 am at Faith.
- All boards will be held on May 13th at 6 pm at Faith.
- Faith will be celebrating our 40th anniversary! Do you have some ideas or want to help plan for some special events? Plans will be made! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or if you have a question contact Kent or Carl.
- We invite you to attend chapel services on Wednesday's at 9:30 am during the school year.
- Do you have a birthday or anniversary or special event in the future? Would you like to provide treats for fellowship or flowers for the altar? The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board so pick the day that you would like!
- If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 920-261-8060.
- If you would like to serve on a cleaning team or be a greeter/usher, please contact Pastor Hoepfner.

Faith • brations

We Celebrate with April Birthdays

Dylan Wegner	4	Kira Schlichting	23
Mildred Chapman	22		



God's Blessings to you!

Faith • full

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- Purchase Scrip Gift cards for your favorite places to shop and the things you use every-day.

You can pick them up in the office or order online any time at <https://www.raiseright.com> our school code 7D4EB33L48L9.

Faith earns a percentage of the money spent.

Contact Beth Stendel for more information at kbdstendel@gmail.com or 920-261-8362
Orders for the month due 4/6 and 4/20 by noon. •

**** Box Tops launched their APP based program and will no longer be making box tops that you will cut out. You will need to download the app and scan your receipt to enter your box tops. If you prefer not to do that, you can bring your receipts into the office and I will scan them using my phone! ****

Every bit helps the church & school!!
THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THESE PROGRAMS

Your offering can be automatically withdrawn weekly, monthly, or even just one time. How convenient is that when you are out of town, but still need to make your offering for the week. Please contact Beth Stendel to get an ACH form that needs to be filled out and on file to do so. We will also have cards in the pew to write down that ONE-TIME offering that you can put in the offering plate if you forgot your checkbook or have no cash on you. You still need to have the ACH paper filled out and on file in order to use the pew cards. Stewardship will still keep track of your giving, just as if it were cash or a check.

Doctrinal Review

Of Conversion

On the other hand, we reject also the Calvinistic perversion of the doctrine of conversation, that is, the doctrine that God does not desire to convert and save all hearers of the Word, but only a portion of them. Many hearers of the Word, indeed remain unconverted and are not saved, but because God does not earnestly desire their conversion and salvation, but solely because they stubbornly resist the gracious operation of the Holy Ghost, as Scripture teaches. Acts 7:51; Matthew 23:37; Acts 13:46.

Prayer Concerns

For our military, the sick, discouraged, & troubled, For those experiencing major life changes like divorce, unemployment or underemployment, difficulty making ends meet. The well being of the church & state, and whatever rests in our hearts.



Stewardship

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LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – April 2026

A Better Way—Originally published in April 2023

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

Soar on wings like eagles - Isaiah 40:31

Happy Birthday & God's blessings!

4/1 Franklin Matthias
4/4 Jonesy Phillips
4/16 Mrs. Clouse
4/16 Imogene Matthias

SAVE THE DATE!

- March 30-April 6th- SPRING BREAK
- Spaghetti Dinner Trivia Night—April 17th 5-9 pm
- May 22—End of the year party 12 pm
- June 15th—Brat Haus At Glenn's

REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN

Reg-



Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is open!

Turn your registration form and fee of \$100 per child in before April 30th! After April 30th, the registration fee goes up to \$125 per child.

Refer a new family to Faith and you will receive a \$100 tuition credit!

- PARENT SPONSORED LUNCH -

-April 8—The Phillips Family—
homemade Lunchables, sides & dessert

-April 22 —The Hewison Family—

Please remember that we have roughly 30 people that are served for lunch



SPAGHETTI

Dinner & Trivia Night

Friday, April 17th

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Adults

\$20

DINNER MENU

Classic Spaghetti
Vegetarian Spaghetti Option
Garlic Bread and Salad
Desserts & Drinks

Limited to 8 teams of 8! Register for a whole team at one time for only \$140! Register your team today by emailing the office at schooloffice4faithlutheran@gmail.com

All proceeds will benefit the school & church!

Order dinner to go for only \$10!

School • news



LCMS

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April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2	3	4	
		-----SPRING BREAK-----					
5	6 NO SCHOOL	7 Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn & garlic bread	8 -Family Sponsored Lunch— The Phillips Family— homemade Lunchables & dessert	9 Sloppy joes, chips, veggies & dip	10	11	
12	13	14 Scrambled eggs, hash-brown patty, fruit & cheese cubes	15	16 Tacos, Spanish rice & fruit	17	18	
19	20	21 Finger food lunch: cheese, sausage, crackers, veggies, fruit, yogurt tube & treat	22 -Family Sponsored Lunch— The Hewison's -	23 Hot ham, mashed potatoes, hot veggie & roll	24	25	
26	27	28 Corn dogs, curly fries & fruit	29	30 French toast, sausage links & fruit			

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
READER/ASSISTANT 4/2 Richard L, Pastor Seth & John Mock 4/3 John Mock 4/5 John M & Richard L 4/12 Richard L & Dan B 4/19 Ella M, Carl H & Norman 4/26 Carl H & John M	GREETERS 4/2 The Uttech's & Jim G 4/3 The Benninger's & Lenny, Kay Koppin 4/5 The Prust Family 4/12 The Benninger's & Lenny, Kay Koppin 4/19 The Prust Family 4/26 The Uttech's & Jim G	ACOLYTE 4/5 Emma Wegner 4/12 Sophia Hoepfner 4/19 Dylan Wegner 4/26 Jasmine Albedyll	1	2 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm	3 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm	4
5 9 am service Sunday School & Bible Study	6 NO SCHOOL Scrip due by noon	7	8 Chapel 9:30 am	9	10	11
12 9 am service Sunday School & Bible Study	13	14 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ McDonald's in Johnson Creek	15 Chapel 9:30 am	16	17 Spaghetti Dinner/ Trivia Night 5-9 pm	18
19 Church Council 8am 9 am Service—Confirmation Sunday Sunday School & Bible Study	20 Scrip due by noon	21	22 Chapel 9:30 am	23	24	25
26 9 am Service Sunday School & Bible Study	27	28 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ McDonald's in Delafield	29 Chapel 9:30 am	30		Door Openers: Malachi, Sophia, Shane, Violet & Ben