

Faith•times

Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church and School | April 2023

*By his wounds you
have been healed*

1 Peter 2:24



ConnectUs

Pastor Hoepfner's Message

Dear Faith Family,

I recently was at a pastor's meeting at a church in our circuit. They were going through an assessment of the many ministries and the life of their church over the last fifty years. In the 1970's, they were worshipping four hundred people in attendance every Sunday. But in a span of seven years, that number dropped to 65 people every Sunday.

What happened? Some of the older members shared with the group that two of the pastors did not get along. They both took calls within six months of each other. But two other main things happened. First, their focus switched and they didn't have Jesus front and center in their worship life. They forgot that Jesus reigned within them. Second, they stopped inviting people to their church. The congregation stopped inviting their neighbors, friends, and family members to church.

As this church looked back in the past, they recognized the many mistakes they made as a congregation. It took them many years to recognize these things and they are starting up an emphasis of healthy communication, putting Jesus front and center and learning ways on how to invite others to church. It has been an uphill battle, but they are seeing the beautiful gift of outreach in their community.

I share this story with you to prepare our congregation to take an online assessment of our stages of development/decline status. You will be receiving an email after Easter with a link to take this assessment. This assessment will help us better answer the question, "Where are we... really?" I desire each one of you to grow in your knowledge of Christ and how we as a congregation can reach others for the sake of the Gospel.

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, I invite you to remember Christ and have Him first. I also encourage you to invite someone to hear of the great passion Christ went through for our redemption. Our evening services are at 6:30 pm and the Easter service is at 9:00 am.

May the Lord guide you throughout these days of Lent and Easter,
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.
626 Milford Street • Watertown, WI 53094 • Phone: 920-261-8060

Email: faithlutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com • Website: www.faithlutheranwatertown.com

Pastor Hoepfner's Email: shoepfner4faithlutheran@gmail.com • Cell: 920-285-9879



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.

- Church Council will be meeting, April 16th at 8 am here at Faith.
- Join us every Wednesday for Chapel with the Children and fellowship at 10:00am at Faith.
- The Pizza Family Night was a success! Thank you, Leea Woolard for organizing the even and to all who participated. In addition to the food and fellowship with children and adults, \$350 was given to the flooring fund for Faith.
- Mark your calendars for Trivia Night at Faith which will be held on April 21st!
- Are you planning on planting flowers or growing a garden? The "Flower Power" coupons can be purchased in \$10 increments which can be redeemed at the Watertown Greenhouse located at 225 E. Arcade St, in Watertown by June 1. 25% of the amount sold will be directed to Faith's Youth Fund. Please contact Connor Baneck, Jenna Baneck, Carl Hoepfner or the church office.
- Holy Week is coming: Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 6:30 pm, Good Friday on April 7th at 6:30 pm and Easter morning on April 9th at 9 am with an Easter breakfast served.
- During this season of Lent, dear Lord, help us express our hope in You and help us do this faithfully, humbly, confidently and prayerfully. Some of the opportunities in the next few weeks are the Lenten Services and Meals before the services. Meals will be at 5:30 and worship at 6:30. Please check the sign-up sheets in the hallway at church.
- Do you have a birthday, 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!
- Would you be willing to use your gift of time and talent to serve Jesus by helping on one of the leadership teams at Faith? The nominations committee will be meeting soon and if you are called to serve on a team please prayerfully consider the opportunity because the Lord has called us for such a time as this! For information, please contact Kent Uttech or Carl Hoepfner
- If you have a prayer request, please call the church office at 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
Tara Bowman	11	Sarah Higgins	25
Terry Frazier	11	Rachael Ellias	28
Mildred Chapman	22	Christopher Bowman	28



God's Blessings to you

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.



Faith • full

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- Purchase Scrip Gift cards for your favorite places to shop and the things you use everyday. You can pick them up in the office or order online any time at <http://www.shopwithscrip.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 4/3 and 4/17 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 Good Works

Before God only those works are good which are done for the glory of God and the good of man, according to the rule of divine Law. Such works, however, no man performs unless he first believes that God has forgiven him his sins and has given him eternal life by grace, for Christ's sake, without any works of his own, John 15:4, 5. We reject as a great folly the assertion, frequently made in our day, that works must be placed in the fore, and "faith in dogmas" -- meaning the Gospel of Christ crucified for the sins of the world -- must be relegated to the rear. Since good works never precede faith, but are always and in every instance the result of faith in the Gospel, it is evident that the only means by which we Christians can become rich in good works (and God would have us to be rich in good works, Titus 2:14) is unceasingly to remember the grace of God which we have received in Christ, Rom. 12:1; 2 Cor. 8:9. Hence we reject as unchristian and foolish any attempt to produce good works by the compulsion of the Law or through carnal motives

Stewardship

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SUPPORT OUR YOUTH – “In All Things” –

Are you planning to plant flowers or grow a garden? We have “Flower Power” coupons again this year! They can be purchased in \$10 increments. 25% of the amount sold will be directed to the Youth Fund.

The “Flower Power” coupons can be redeemed at the Watertown Greenhouse located at 225 E. Arcade Street in Watertown. Deadline to return the money or coupons is Wednesday, April 19th. The greenhouse opens April 29th. Please redeem all coupons by June 1st.

Please contact Connor Baneck, Jenna Baneck, Carl Hoeppepner or the church office and “Flower Power” coupons will be delivered to you.

Thank you for your support.



Stewardship

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LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article – April 2023

A Better Way

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.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

School • news



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"For we walk by faith, not by sight"
- 2 Corinthians 5:7

Happy Birthday & God's blessings...

Mrs. Clouse 4/16
Isabel Young 4/19

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is open! Sign up before April 30th to get the early bird registration fee of only \$100! After April 30th, the registration fee will go up to \$125.

Have friends looking for a fantastic school? Invite them for a tour!

NO SCHOOL -
APRIL 7 & 10



Join us on
Wednesday's for
Chapel and
fellowship at 10
am!

TRIVIA NIGHT



SPAGHETTI DINNER
& FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST

6:00 PM

REGISTER HERE



Faith Lutheran Church
and School

626 MILFORD ST WATERTOWN, WI 53094

ARRIVE EARLY...TRIVIA STARTS AT 6:45 PM

Think you know it all? Prove it!

Gather up a team of friends and come out to compete in a fun evening of trivia. Prizes will be awarded to the top two teams.

Spaghetti dinner will be served at 6:00pm.

\$20 PER PERSON, 8 PEOPLE PER TEAM.
-DINNER INCLUDED-



REGISTER HERE

HELP US REACH OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL OF
\$3500

School • news



LCMS

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April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Pizza, fruit & yogurt tubes	4	5	6	7 NO SCHOOL	8
9	10 NO SCHOOL	11	12	13	14 Scrambled eggs, hash-brown patties, fruit & cheese stick	15
16	17 Chicken tenders, hot veggie & mac n cheese	18	19	20	21 Taco day, Spanish rice & fresh fruit	22
23	24 Hot dogs, tater tots, fresh fruit & pickles	25	26	27	28 Sub sandwich, soft pretzels & fruit	29
30						



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	3 Scrip due by noon	4	5 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am	6 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM	7 No School Good Friday Ser- vice 6:30 PM	8
9 Easter Sunday 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	10 No School	11 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am @ Johnson Creek Elder's Meeting 10 am	12 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am Wednesday Night Gath- ering 6-7 pm	13	14	15
16 Church Council 8 am 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	17 Scrip due by noon	18	19 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am	20	21 Trivia Night 6 PM	22
23 Confirmation Sunday 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School	24	25 Commuter Bible Study 7:30 am at Panera in Delafield Confirmation 5-6 pm	26 Chapel & Fellowship 10 am Wednesday Night Gath- ering 6-7 pm	27	28	29
30 9 am service Bible Study & Sunday School					READER/ASSISTANT 4/2 Jim P & Dan B 4/6 Pastor H & Carl H 4/7 Richard L 4/9 Harry K & Norman W 4/16 Naithan H & Dan B 4/23 Carl H & Richard 4/30 Ella M & Norman W & Carl H	USHERS & GREETERS 4/2 Judi & Carl H 4/9 The Baneck's 4/16 Kent & Audra U 4/23 Harry & Kay K 4/30 Judi & Carl H