

## GOOD NEWS

# Every Good & Perfect Gift

At a funeral the pastor was extolling the wonderful qualities of the man who lay in the casket. Those assembled heard what a good husband, fine father, faithful Christian, and upstanding citizen this man was.

The recently widowed wife was surprised, so surprised that she whispered to her oldest son, "Junior, go up there and see if that's your daddy in the box—I do believe they got the wrong man!"

Surprise! That's what Easter is all about. Our God is a God of surprises, good surprises. God surprised Adam and Eve with amazing mercy after they had committed the most destructive act of disobedience.

God surprised His people held captive in Babylon by having the ruler of the Medes and Persians send them back to the Promised Land with orders and money to rebuild the land.

God surprised a young woman named Mary with the news that she had been chosen to give birth to the Messiah, the One promised from ages past.

God surprised lowly shepherds in the night time with an angelic explosion of light and chorus, announcing that the Christ had been born.



God surprised the scribes and Pharisees with a Savior who would not save them from Roman rule but from sin, death, and the devil.

God surprised the world with a love that would sacrifice His own

Son by means of a criminal's execution.

God surprised the women who were returning to the tomb to finish the embalming with an empty tomb with an incredible word: "He is not here; He has risen."

And God surprises us. As we gaze into the gloomy tomb of our sins, failures, and wickedness, we expect to find death—eternal and physical—as the outcome.

But the tomb is empty for us! Sins and failures are gone—forgiven. Christ was risen for us; we too are raised. Life's surprises we can handle, because the best of all surprises has taken us by surprise.

Rev. William Plautz  
Senior Pastor

### **Christian Humor** *Light-hearted humor with a spiritual*

No Christian "holy-day" is more joyous than Easter. Its meaning is clear: death has been destroyed, heaven has been opened...unless you're a boy who is in a sibling dogfight with a brother. So let's look at this month's letter to a pastor.

"Dear Pastor,  
I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there.  
Steven, age 8"

Two thoughts: it's not right to judge another's heart, and it's not right to assume.

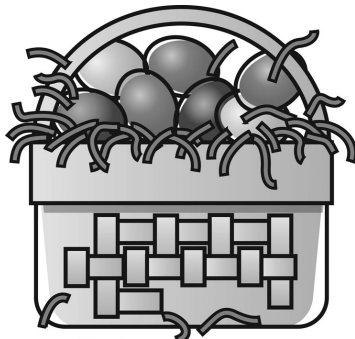
We are reminded that we too are sinners in need of forgiveness, and we continue to live out the Gospel as the Holy Spirit empowers us. Paul wrote that God wants all people to be saved, and created His Church to live that message.



## From our DYFM, Valerie Brooks

Hello, everyone! Can you believe that it's April already?? I am very excited for Spring to be here, and I love the Easter season – so this should be a fun month!

**On Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**, the Sunday school children will be performing hand-bells before the 10:15am Easter Journey service begins. Then, families can stay and enjoy the Easter journey. We will follow this with the annual **Children's Egg Hunt** after church (around 11:15am). If you have any questions about this day, or you would like to help me hide some Easter eggs (it's a BIG job), please let me know. Sunday School & Youth families, please also note that there will not be Sunday School or Youth Group on Easter Sunday (April 16<sup>th</sup>). I would encourage you all to spend the day celebrating the risen Savior with your families.



Also happening in April we have **Confirmation Sunday** scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at the 10:15am service. The week prior to this, we will be having a lunch for

the Confirmands and their families around 11:30am here at the church. Confirmation families, please keep an eye out for an email with more information on this event.

Also coming up for the Confirmation students is the annual retreat. The **2017 Confirmation Retreat** is August 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> this year. Please look for the registration letter in your mailbox coming soon. We will be doing a couple of fundraisers over the summer that will help families pay for this retreat, so please keep an eye out for those dates as well.

I am in need of chaperones and kitchen staff for a **Family Fun Camping** event June 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The congregation is invited to register for the event by filling out a form in the narthex or online. If you would be interested in helping out or chaperoning, please note it on the registration form. We will be starting our fun night after the 6pm church service with some evening camping games and smores, followed by an

overnight camp out on the church lawn. In the morning we'll enjoy a pancake breakfast and devotion, followed by some arts & crafts and games. The event will be from 6:45pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> – 10:00am on the 15<sup>th</sup>. All from the congregation are welcome to join us for this family-friendly event in June.

**Vacation Bible School** is also going to be coming up sooner than we think, and I am currently in need of room leaders and volunteers for games, crafts, Bible study, music, nursery, and technology/ photography. If you would be interested in helping out at all, please let me know. A volunteer sign up will be posted in the narthex in May, along with VBS registration forms for families. Vacation Bible School this year is **July 31<sup>st</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. This is a fun event for children from all over the community!

Valerie Brooks, DYFM

## April Bible Studies

### Sunday School

Classes for kids ages 3—grade 6, Sunday's 8:45-10am. Singing, Bible time, crafts & activities.

### Sunday Morn Bible Class

Join us for a study at 9am led by Dick Walters. Topic: Lutheranism 101.

### Youth Bible Class

This study is for young adults (ages 13-25) and meets at 9am. Leader: Corey Brooks.

### Monday Aft Bible Class

Consider joining this group on Monday at 1pm. Leader: Sue Smith.

### Tuesday Morn Study

Class meets Tuesday's at 6:30am. Bring your Bible and your appetite (cost of the meal is on your own). Topic: 1 Timothy. Led by Pastor Plautz.

### Thursday Bible Class

This class meets at 9:30am for Donna Pyle's Bible Study series for women. Leader: Pam Pfankuch

### Thursday Men's Bible Class

A group for guy's to study "Christianity & the Competition" meets Thursday's at 7pm. Leader: Pastor Plautz

### Couples Group

The group has finished "The Art of Marriage" and is planning another social outing. Contact Lynn Musser at 715.861.5630 for info.

### April's Sermon Series Topics

April 2—Apostles' Creed/Maker  
 April 9—Apostles' Creed/Provider  
 April 16—Apostles' Creed/Defender  
 April 23—Apostles' Creed/God our Father  
 April 30—Apostles' Creed/Incarnate Lord

### Holy Week Schedule

#### Palm Sunday

April 9 -7:45am Service  
 (in fellowship hall)  
 9am Palm Sun. Bake Sale  
 10:15am Easter Journey  
 11:15am Family Egg Hunt

#### Maundy Thursday

April 13 at 6pm

#### Good Friday

April 14 at 1:30pm

#### Easter Sunday

April 16—7:45am  
 April 16—10:15am

(both with communion)



**Check us out online** at [faithlutheranconf.org](http://faithlutheranconf.org) or upload our mobile app!

**Faith Lutheran Church  
Mission & Ministry Council  
March 13, 2017  
6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Attending Disciples:** Scott Bernette, Larry Bohl, Ed Klotz, Randy Knapp, Bill Miller, Steve Missfeldt, Janell Newcomb, Bob Normand, Pastor Plautz.

**Call to Order:** Bob Normand called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Plautz led with the opening prayer

**February Minutes:** The February 13, 2017, minutes were reviewed. Ed Klotz made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Randy Knapp seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Council reviewed the checkbook register, summary report, and profit & loss year-to-date comparisons for January through March 13, 2017. There has been an increase in offerings, but the operating budget is still showing a deficit. Bill Miller made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Steve Missfeldt seconded the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**Pastor's Report:** Alice Helgeson completed the Parochial Report for 2016. It shows that Faith Lutheran has 510 members; the average weekly attendance is 204 members; 43 children attended VBS; the attendance for Sunday School and Bible Study is approximately 90; the congregation is made up of the following - 20% are under 15 years of age; 6% are in the 15-18 year old category; 16% are in the 19-34 year old category; 13% are in the 35-49 year old category; 19% are in the 50-64 year old category; and 26% are in the 65 years and older category.

Pastor Plautz answered questions posed by the Council on the vacancy that will be created when he retires on July 31, 2017, and the process that will take place to fill it.

**Cloutier Scholarship Fund (LCEF):** The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2016, is \$826.26. After discussion, Scott Bernette made a motion that the Cloutier Scholarship Fund balance be moved to the Endowment Fund. Larry Bohl seconded the motion and it carried on a voice vote.

**Pastor's Retirement:**

**a.) Retirement Celebration:** Alice Helgeson is looking into arrange-

ments for a celebration for Pastor's retirement. She will compile the information and forward it to the Mission and Ministry Council.

**b. Call Committee:** A Call Committee will be formed. It is hoped that the committee will be comprised of a representation of various age groups of members of the congregation. If anyone from the congregation is interested in serving on the committee, they should contact Bob Normand.

**Action List:** An "action list" of current and future maintenance projects has been compiled. The list was inserted in the bulletin to make the congregation aware of projects that will need to be addressed as funds are raised. At this time, there are not enough funds available in the operating budget to allow for completion of the projects.

**Date of Next Council Meeting:** The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 10th, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Janell Newcomb, Council Secretary

**Lent 6—April 5 at 6pm**

It's a time of devotion, nurture and reflection in the journey of our Lord. The last offering is entitled "A Clean Heart" in our readers theater series featuring "God's Good & Perfect Gifts".

**Easter Journey**

This year the production of the Easter Journey will take place during Palm Sunday's 10:15am service. It will portray the various scenes from Jesus' life. Be sure to invite your friends and family to this impactful event. A family egg hunt will follow on the church grounds.

**Palm Sunday Bake Sale**

The Women of Faith is sponsoring a congregational bake sale on Wednesday, April 5 & Sunday, April 9th (following services). Donations of baked goods are welcome! Proceeds will benefit future facility improvement projects at FLC.

**ATTN: Women of Faith**

Meets on Tuesday, April 18 at 6pm for craft night. All ladies are welcome!

**Pew Cushions Fund**

Our congregation is currently raising funds for the replacement of our pew cushions. Please designate offerings to "Pew Cushions" and submit to the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

**Faith Christian Preschool & Pre-Kindergarten** is accepting registrations for 2017-18. A informational brochure is available from the church office or check out the registration online at [faithlutheranconf.org](http://faithlutheranconf.org).

**Scrip for Sale—April 2 & 16**

Purchase gift cards from area businesses and proceeds benefit the youth program here at FLC. See Valerie or Corey in the narthex after worship (or) obtain from the church office.

**Pastor's Retirement**

A date for Pastor's Retirement Send-Off Service and Appreciation dinner has been set for Sunday, July 30th. Please make a note of this special event on your summer calendars.

**Volunteers Needed**

We are seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to plan this gala event. If you are interested, please contact Bob Normand or Alice Helgeson before April 15.

**LWML Spring Rally** is being hosted by Zion Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 22 beginning at 8:30am.

**If you are hospitalized** and desire a pastoral call or have medial issues and are unable to attend church, please contact the church office so proper pastoral care can be given.

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
**733 Woodward Avenue**  
**Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

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Requested**

x

### **April's Newsletter**

## **April's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### **Happy Birthday!**

1-Marianne Missfeldt,  
2-Jerome Wing  
3-Brianna Engel  
4-Len Glodowski, Jarod Newcomb, Sharon Sabish, Logan Voight, Noah Witt  
5-Steve Hardwick  
6-Dale Volrath  
8-Jack Jerry, Ryan LeDuc  
9-Violet Twerberg  
10-Michelle Schrieber, Eric Wedemeyer  
11-Helen Meyer  
12-Richard O'Mara  
13-Aliyah Bowe, Tabitha Fedie, Ethan Normand  
16-Lincoln Sedlacek  
18-Katelyn Haller, Ryan Moldenhauer  
19-Ardell Braunberger, Alayna Dreger  
20-Shirley LaRose, Randy Larson  
21-Grace Brion, Randy Knapp  
22-Madisynn O'Connell

25-Margaret Andersen, John Pederson  
28-Kevin Dietsche, Beverly Normand  
29-Jack Bornsen, Milford Newman  
30-Pat Saxon

### **Happy Anniversary!**

7-Lyle & Dolores Johnson  
8-Ken & Bonnie Schimmel  
15-Steve & Lois Raether  
16-Dennis & Diane Schroeder  
20-George & Cheryl Brock  
24-Ken & Joan Schaller  
30-Scott & Celeste Swoboda

