



Faith News

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August 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

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It is the mission of Faith Lutheran Church:

*To gather prayerfully as the Body of Christ;
To grow in faith, love, and service;
To go into the world joyfully as disciples.*

Worship Schedule

All Services this summer will be

Wednesday Night at 6:30
Supper and Fellowship at 5:30—6:15



Follow Faith Lutheran Wolverton on Facebook

August Food Pantry

Cereal



August Ushers

Robert Nord
Wayne Krump
Ben Krump

From our Pastor - Devlyn Brooks

One of the most challenging issues that faithful people have to wrestle with is that if our supposedly loving God is mighty enough to have created the entire universe, down to the tiniest of details, then why does he not prevent the most horrific acts that we humans commit?

Our region was stunned when on July 14 a gunman intent on inflicting mass carnage on our community was taken out by one lonely and brave Fargo police officer, who's actions saved untold lives.

Had Officer Zach Robinson not stopped the gunman, the casualties would have been unthinkable. It makes me shudder just to think about it.

Circumstances such as this make it very easy to ask the critical question: Why does God allow tragedies such as this to happen?

If I'm truthful with you, I too ask this question over and over, again and again. I suspect that even the most ardent of faithful people do too.

And while even as a pastor, with many expecting me to contemplate the most difficult of faith questions all the time, I would be lying if I told you I had the answer.

Because I just don't know.

I don't know why God allows a gunman with unknown intent to gun down three officers, killing one, and an innocent bystander. Or why seemingly healthy loved ones die from massive aneurysms in the prime of their lives? Or why children suffer. Or why are there incurable terminal diseases? In recent months, I have been haunted by all of these questions. Sometimes even keeping me up at night.

And I've arrived nowhere nearer an answer that consoles me. ... I just know that part of being human is knowing that tragedies happen, and part of being faithful is accepting that God doesn't always prevent them.

These are truths with which each of us must wrestle.

But even knowing that, these are the things that bring me comfort. First, even in the darkest, bleakest moments through which we live, if you look hard enough, God is at work through the Holy Spirit somewhere. I promise.

And, second, God will always work through the brokenness we experience to make something good, gluing back together what evil in this world shatters. Maybe not instantly, but eventually, the long reach of God through the ages uses everything for good.

My favorite song by the band called Mercy Me is titled "Even If," and it addresses this very difficult issue. ... Why God, why would you let this happen?

Wednesday Night Summer Services at 6:30pm through August 30.

Come early and enjoy supper and fellowship from 5:30 to 6:15pm.

Sundays services resume September 10.

(Continued on page 2)

The chorus goes like this:

"I know You're able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone
I know the sorrow, I know the hurt
Would all go away if You'd just say the word
But even if You don't
My hope is You alone"

Faith Family ... even in the face of tragedy, God is our hope alone.

While I cannot answer the bigger question of why God doesn't prevent tragedies -- large or small -- I take comfort in the belief that God does act. It just may require us to look a little deeper in some instances to see it. ... Amen.

UPDATE ON THE ISRAEL TRIP:

By now, I hope that our congregation knows that we are planning a potential trip to the Holy Land in February.

We're a couple of months into the exploration phase, and we've already held two informational meetings about the trip for our congregation members.

On May 21, about 10 of our Faith Family gathered to watch the informational video about the proposed congregational trip to the Holy Land. And about the same number attended a question and answer forum with the travel company rep during our July 12 worship service. Thank you to those who attended!

Since that time, we also have started to invite people from other churches and guests of our congregation members along for the trip.

We seem to be getting very close to a critical mass for the number of registrations we need for the trip to take place.

But we are now coming to the most critical phase. There are two factors we need to consider. The first is the number of attendees, and the second is the upcoming **registration deadline of August 27**.

We need seven confirmed registrations by that time to ensure that the trip is a go. And secondly, the earlier we have firm registration numbers, the better opportunity the travel company will have in getting flights booked so that we can travel together.

If you are interested and have not yet expressed that interest, please let me know. This will be very helpful as we continue to explore the likelihood of this once-in-a-lifetime faith trip together.

Thank you Faith Family! Blessings to you this August!



Birthdays

- 1 Barb Wise
- 2 David Matz
- 4 Kristi Edwards
- 4 David Israelson
- 6 Sheyenne Hirsch
- 9 Dennis Bohner
- 9 Jim Lucke
- 11 Scott Blilie
- 11 Jessica Nelson
- 11 Zayden Smeby
- 12 Dallas Israelson
- 15 Tammy Dockter
- 15 Eric Stark
- 17 Devlyn Brooks
- 17 Adrie Israelson
- 19 Amanda Nelson
- 21 Claire Aigner
- 22 Kiyara Jinadasa
- 22 Candace Johnson
- 23 Karen Thompson
- 26 Mandy Schroeder
- 26 Brayden Retzlaff
- 27 Grant Israelson
- 28 Carley Stark
- 29 Anton Smeby
- 30 Beverly Israelson
- 31 Marlow Cassidy
- 31 Delmar Nord

Anniversaries

- 16 Jeff and Sue Rasmussen
- 21 Erick and Ellen Stark
- 22 Bradley and Vicky Nelson
- 26 David and Gayle Matz
- 31 Karl and Karen Thompson



August 14-16 at 4:30-6:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church

Supper will be provided each day.

If your kids are planning on attending, please let Renata Smeby (320-894-2496).

Lots of fun activities and crafts are planned—centering around service!

The kids will help with supper and with outdoor worship August 16.

An outdoor movie will be shown after worship. All are welcome.

Faith Care and Share

Funeral: The funeral for **Loren Blilie**, previous long time member and former resident of Wolverton area was held at Faith Lutheran on June 12, 2023. Loren died May 25 at the age of 85.

Funeral: The funeral for **Lyle and Lois Picotte** was held on June 27, 2023. Lyle passed away April 29 at the age of 87 and Lois on June 18 at the age of 86.

Wedding: Congratulations to **Sophie (Aigner) and EJ Engen** who were married on May 27, 2023. They make their home in Glenwood, MN.

Prayer Requests

Jane Buchholz—Sheyenne Crossing Long Term Care West Fargo, ND

Louie Gruenberg—River Pointe Moorhead, MN

Arlene Nelson—Eventide Senior Living Moorhead, MN

Keith Nelson—at home in Wolverton, MN

Alice Poppel - Farmstead Care Moorhead

Please keep these people in your prayers. Drop them a note or give them a call. Please let Devlyn know of any other prayer concerns.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Opening Devotions: Pastor Rebel Hurd

Members Present: Sara Aigner, Wayne Krump, Keith Kragerud, Lisa Miller, Greg Freitag and Duane Nelson

Others Present: Pastor Rebel Hurd, Synod Director of Evangelical Mission & Bob Stein

Absent: Tina Aigner, Kylie Hendrickson & Jessica Nelson

Next Meeting: July 12, following worship

Devotions: Lisa Miller

Food Pantry Item: Condiments

Communion Assistants: June 7, Wayne Krump and June 21, Lisa Miller

Guest Presentation: Pastor Rebel Hurd asked the attendees what some of our favorite memories of Faith Lutheran were, and then discussed how our memories make the fabric of the church. She challenged us to think about what would bring people into the church and offer them relief, a sense of belonging and community. She asked if there is a need that exists in our community that we could fulfill as a congregation, and what we are willing to do to get to Jesus. Council members brainstormed ideas. Pastor Hurd said “belonging leads to believing.” She will assist us and offer resources to Faith Lutheran if we’re interested. She will send a follow-up email to Pastor Brooks and council members after tonight’s meeting with some observations. She feels we’re in a great location geographically to attract new members.

Secretary’s Report: Approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Approved.

Pastor’s Report: Saturday June 3, Bob Stein will attend the Synod Assembly in Moorhead, and Pastor Brooks will attend the meeting in Bemidji. Loren Blilie’s funeral will be June 12 at 1 p.m. A representative from the travel agency will speak during worship about the trip to the Holy Land that is being explored. Confirmation ended in May. There will be five students participating in confirmation in the fall. There will be one First Communion student next year. Pastor Brooks has had his job responsibilities reduced at The Forum. We were asked to keep Lois Picotte in our prayers.

Committee Reports & Assignments

Property & Maintenance – Keith Kragerud & Wayne Krump – Keith asked Chad Erickson to repair the pavers in front of the church. Brad Nelson had a contractor out to repair the bell tower leak. Sheetrock repair work in the balcony is completed, but painting needs to be done. Lisa will discuss the project with Jessica Nelson.

Old Business

Peterson Memorial – Wayne will talk to Brad about the exterior cross project.

Video and sound in the sanctuary – tabled

Annual Meeting date change, Council Member reduction send other resolutions – tabled

Holy Land Tour – There will be more discussion at the July 12 meeting.

New Business

Pastor Rebel Hurd – Rebel had many ideas. The Council looks forward to her assessment following tonight’s visit. Council members will review her notes and discuss them at the July 12 meeting.

Submitted by Sara Aigner

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Worship Schedule

Wednesday, August 2—Guest Pr. Pickering—Rural Vitalization

Wednesday, August 9—Pr. Devlyn Brooks—communion (Council meeting after worship)

August 14-16—VBS (see inside for more info)

Wednesday, August 16— Pr. Devlyn Brooks—OUTDOOR SERVICE & movie shown after worship

Wednesday, August 23—Pr. Devlyn Brooks— communion (Music & Worship after worship)

Wednesday, August 30—Pr. Devlyn Brooks— (last Wednesday night service)

Sunday, September 3—NO SERVICE

Sunday, September 10—Rally Sunday 10:00 Worship and 9:00 Sunday School

This Summer Schedule—

Wednesday night supper—5:30 to 6:15 Wednesday night worship—6:30

Watch for any updates to schedule on our Facebook page and on our website.

Meeting Schedule

August 9 after worship—Council

August 23 after worship—Music & Worship