



Faith News

Volume 27, Issue 8

September 2024

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.*

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday School - 9:00
Worship - 10:00
Fellowship - 11:00
Holy Communion on the first and third weeks of the month.



Follow
Faith Lutheran
Wolverton

September Ushers

Mark Johnson
Matt Johnson
Jim Lucke



From our Pastor - Devlyn Brooks

God's time. ... Not our time.

You'd think after the circuitous and long road it took for me to answer my call as a pastor, I would have this important faith lesson burned into my consciousness. But this month, I found myself shaking my head, and muttering to myself, "God's time, Devlyn. Not yours."

As I'm sure you know by now, three weeks ago my world was turned upside down when I was invited to take the reins as director of Churches United, a large, faith-based nonprofit organization in Fargo-Moorhead that operates a shelter for the homeless, a very busy food pantry and a transitional housing apartment building that helps move people into permanent house.

Just when I was adjusting to having been laid off from a 30-year career in the newspaper industry ... BOOM ... in the blink of an eye, one day I woke up as the new interim CEO of Churches United.

God's time, Devlyn. Not yours.

The first three weeks have been fast and furious. It's probably not a secret to you that the organization is in a bit of a financial pickle, and we're fighting hard to keep the doors open for the hundreds of people we house and the thousands of people we feed.

The greater Fargo-Moorhead region has rallied to help keep the doors open for our first few months, but we are not out of the woods yet. We still have to find a long-term funding source that makes our operation sustainable. There are thousands of people counting on us to do so.

I share this because I know you may be wondering about how this is going to work. How can I still be an effective pastor here at Faith Lutheran, which has been so gracious to me for the past eight years, and also operate Churches United?

The simple and honest answer is: We'll figure it out together ... one day at a time.

I've been lucky so far that my duties here and at Churches United have dovetailed nicely. In fact, I have shared with many that this new role allows me greater freedom to be a pastor, and a more conducive opportunity to live into my pastoral call, far more so than my previous profession in the media.

In fact, this new role has helped me feel more like I am fully living into being a pastor more than ever. In this new role, I truly get the opportunity to live into Jesus' message of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and housing those without shelter.

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And for me, the most rewarding part is that I'm getting to do it in conjunction with my Faith Family here at Faith Lutheran. Thank you to all of you for your support and encouragement in this role over the past month.

Oh, I know, there will come times when I -- or you, frankly -- will feel the friction between my two roles. There will arise conflicts between where I need to place my attention. But I'm asking for your grace and your trust that I hope I have earned over the last eight years to know where I am pastorally called to in the moment.

I truly believe that the Holy Spirit has called me and Faith Lutheran into this moment to serve our greater kingdom. After all, we are asked to do "on earth as it is in heaven." I believe that because of your support, we can together serve in a mighty way to shine Christ's light by serving our neighbors in need at Churches United.

Please know that Faith Lutheran means no less to me now than it did in July. And I honestly do believe that the complement of work here and Churches United will make me just that much more skilled of a pastor. I believe everyone benefits.

Faith Family, thank you for your continued support in this new role. I am grateful! I couldn't do it without your blessing!

Now, I have just one more request: Please keep me, the shelter staff and its guests in your prayers. We need them! ... We have a long, uphill climb back to financial stability in our organization. And we need all of the prayer warriors we can muster! Thank you!

Blessings to you this September, Faith Family! ... See you in church!

Pr. Devlyn

National Youth Gathering Summary

Come and hear about the experience the LYO kids had at the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. They will share their experiences and photos during worship on September 29.



Birthdays

- 2 Megan Woodraska
- 2 Miranda Schmidt
- 3 Ross Aigner
- 5 Austin Erickson
- 5 Garrett Mortenson
- 7 Tina Aigner
- 8 Vanessa Kratzer
- 11 Jessica Church
- 18 Renata Smeby
- 19 Tom Nelson
- 20 Jann Emerson
- 22 Jeff Rasmussen
- 24 Jeff Nord
- 26 Sue Rasmussen
- 26 Spencer Nord
- 30 Melanie Johnson

Anniversaries

- 3 Scott and Deb Smith
- 6 Ross and Tina Aigner
- 6 Mark and Kristi Johnson
- 13 LaDawn Turner and Tim Nicklay
- 14 Brent and Erica Halverson
- 19 Kyle and Tahnje Affield
- 19 Travis and Renata Smeby
- 20 Megan and Joe Woodraska
- 26 Paul and Bev Israelson
- 28 Doc and Tammy Dockter
- 28 Mark and Lisa Miller

Faith Care and Share

Funeral: The funeral for Jane Buchholz was held on August 27 at Faith Lutheran. Jane passed away at the age of 91 on August 21.

Community News

St. Thomas Church in **Kent Annual Fall Bazaar** is Sunday, September 8. Turkey and ham Dinner with all the trimmings from 11am to 1:30pm with Frozen Farmer Ice Cream Truck for Dessert! Games. Country Store. Bingo. Raffle. Children's Games.

Food Truck Tuesday

Last Food Truck of the Season -September 3 4pm-7pm

A new truck to complete the season—Duck, Duck, Goose

Thank you to Lisa Keavney for coming up with the idea of Food Truck Tuesday and leading this fun summer project! It has been a fun way to be church outside of our church walls and reach out to our wonderful community. Thank you Pr. Devlyn for being present and visiting with so many people as they came to partake in the great food.

Faith Women

Faith Women Dates -

October 13—Meeting after worship

October 31—Trunk or Treat

November 10—Church Auction (time TBD)

November 21—Faith Women lead service

- music by Prairie Doves
- Thank Offering
- 2nd Annual Food Drive



Christmas Concert

Kathie Brekke in Concert

December 8, 2024 @ 3 PM

More information to come

SYNOD ROAD TRIP 2024

Monday, September 9th
@ Trinity Lutheran Church,
Moorhead
 210 7th St. S.

5:30 Dinner
 6:00 Worship
 6:30 Program
 Updates from around the Synod
 7:25 Closing with a Blessing

The Synod Staff is coming to you!

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship on the Beach

Thank you to LaDawn Turner and Tim Nicklay for hosting the first annual (?) *Worship on the Beach* on Wednesday, August 21. Those attending enjoyed a great meal and special service led by the Sunday school sharing their camp experience. Those interested were able to affirm their baptism in the pit. This was a great way to end the summer outdoor services.



Prayer Requests

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, August 7, 2024

Members Present: President Tina Aigner, Sara Aigner, Greg Freitag, Wayne (Dike) Krump, Lisa Miller and Duane Nelson.

Members Absent: Keith Kragerud

Others Present: Pastor Devlyn Brooks and Mutual Ministry Committee representatives - Jean Aigner and Deb Byers

Opening Prayer: Pastor Devlyn Brooks

Devotions: Duane Nelson

Preliminary Business

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 4, 7 p.m.

Devotions: Sara Aigner

Communion Assistants: Wednesday, August 28 - Dike and Sunday, September 8 - Tina

Secretary's Report: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Approved

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Devlyn accepted the position of Interim CEO, Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead, MN. He will not be serving the Synod in the manner discussed at last month's meeting. He hopes to have the LYO members who participated in the National Youth Gathering lead worship share their experience with the congregation on Sunday, September 29. The owner of the Red Silo asked him if our parish would like to participate in a fall festival they are planning. Rally Sunday is September 8th and McCoy Johnson, son of Matthew and Melanie, will be baptized during the service. LaDawn Turner and Tim Nicklay are hosting worship at Turner Sand and Gravel on August 21. Anyone interested in having an affirmation of their baptism may do so.

Committee Reports & Assignments

Education & Youth - Lisa Miller - Vacation Bible School is scheduled for August 20, 21 and 22.

Endowment - Duane Nelson - Scholarships are approved.

Property & Maintenance - Keith Kragerud & Dike Krump - The toilet paper holder in the men's bathroom is replaced. The cinder block walls in some Sunday school rooms are collecting moisture. Gutters need to be cleaned. Wood shingles from the roof were noticed on the ground. A new urinal will be pur-

chased. The air conditioners need maintenance. Painting in some areas of the sanctuary needs attention. Maybe the entire sanctuary needs painting? Faith Forward - The next meeting is August 14th. The food trucks are well received and hosting them again next year will be discussed.

Old Business

Pastor's Job Evaluation – Important to conduct annually. The Council will look at additional ways to include member participation in the process next year – potentially ask for five volunteers. Pastor would like to explore an adult bible study or possibly a study of other religions. Devlyn has several ideas on how to enhance the experience of attending Faith Lutheran. He will bring an idea to each meeting.

Pastor's Job Description – Make a distinction within the description regarding on who Pastor Brooks visits versus who a lay person visits. The job description needs to be reviewed annually.

Just Beyond Balcony Paint Needed – More painting needs to be done. Council members will look for painters.

Other Old Business – None.

New Business

Other New Business

- Music and Worship
- Adult Education
- Mutual Ministry Committee
- Goals – set our agenda for the year, we need at least three. The goals will play into our budget. Members are going to bring thoughts regarding goals to the September meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Sara Aigner, Secretary

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 4—NO SERVICE

Sunday, September 8—Rally Sunday 10:00 Worship with communion and 9:00 Sunday School

Sunday, September 15— Guest Minister: Pr Kirsten Frantsvog 10:00 Worship and 9:00 Sunday School

Sunday, September 22— Communion 10:00 Worship and 9:00 Sunday School

Sunday, September 29—LYO Lead (National Youth Gathering Summary) and 9:00 Sunday School

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 4—Council at 7 PM

September 15-17—Pastor Devlyn at Theology for Ministry Conference

Sunday, September 22—Faith Forward meets after worship