

Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

10973 County Rd.1,

Pine River, MN 56474

Address Service Requested



January

2019



United We Stand

"We Serve God by Serving Others"

Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

10973 Co, Rd, 1

Pine River MN 56474

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CHURCH in the WOODS

Newsletter

Catch the Spirit, come worship with us!

The Green Thing

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment. The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said that she was right -- our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain:

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing."

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

I always prefer to believe the best of everybody. It saves so much trouble.

Please continue to pray for these persons who have ongoing health problems: **Pat Welf, Don Peterson, Brian Busby, Bub Moser, Carol Carlson, Dave Bollie, Danny Raph, Donna Bollie, Annette Petschl, Ronnie & Gene Buchite.**

Jordi Carr, Son of Brenda Gard Zierden, had a CT Scan which shows two brown spots in his left lung. Further tests are warranted and it may be scar tissue. Please keep Jordi in your thoughts and prayers.

Janis Allen had a CT Scan which shows two nodules in her right lung. A PET Scan is scheduled for January 3. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Financial Report: November 1-30, 2018

General Fund Income: \$2,435.21
 General Fund Expense: -2,367.19
 \$ 68.02

Anniversaries

January

21 – Jerry & Pat Welf

Church Needs List:

Decaf Coffee
 Cold cups 6 oz



We express our sympathies to the family of **Don Peterson** who passed away on December 1. Don was a valued member of Faith and served on the church council and sang bass in the choir. He has been in assisted living/nursing home for quite a few years. We have missed him, but he got to spend Christmas in Heaven! “Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.”

Birthdays

December

02—Samantha Raph
 06 – Kevin Swanson
 07 – Katelyn Peterson
 10 – Daniel Anderson
 11 – Ben Kline
 17 – Alyssa Goldenstein Wisnure
 18 – Robert Annable
 23 – Charlene Raph
 25 – Jesus
 27 – Sue Feierabend
 27 – James Peterson

A Resolve

For every morning of the New Year.

I will this day try to live a simple, sincere and serene life. Repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity, and self-seeking. Cultivating cheerfulness and magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence. Exercising economy in expenditure, carefulness in conversation, fidelity to every trust and a child-like trust in God.

Bishop John H. Vincent

Peace...is just a prayer away.

Hope....you can have it today.

Love....it will lighten your way.

Callupon the Lord and pray.

Help.....through all of life’s alarms.

Strength...to stand from day to day.

Callupon the Lord and pray.

Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are!



FAITH LUTHERAN COUNCIL MINUTES ~ November 18, 2018

President Loni Porta called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

President Loni Porta opened with prayer.

Present: Bob Bergman, Bill Korman, Loni Porta, Tracy Raph, Bonnie Schlapkohl, Shari Curell

Absent: N/A

Secretary's Report:

Pastor Lee Yarger confirmed he will be preaching through December

Giving plan voting results ~ Thank you to all those who participated, each of these are wonderful organizations!

1. 6 votes ~ Saving Hearts for Suicide Prevention
2. 4 votes ~ Camp Knutson
3. 4 votes ~ College Scholarship for High School student
4. 3 votes ~ Child Protection Ministries
5. 2 votes ~ Battered Women's Ministries
6. 2 votes ~ MN adult and Teen Challenge
7. 1 vote ~ Global Missionaries
8. 1 vote ~ Emily Food Shelf
9. 1 vote ~ Sex Trafficking Prevention Crow Wing County
10. 1 vote ~ Meals on Wheels
11. 0 votes ~ Prison Ministries

Christmas caroling and cider - December 18, meet at the church leaving @ 5:15. After the carolers are done it will be back to the church for cider and cookies.

Advent Candle Presenters ~ Many thanks to all of you!

December 2 ~ Tom & Jo Swoverland

December 9 ~ Al & Carol Buchite

December 16 ~ Bob & Julie Bergman

December 23 ~ Keith & Carol Moser

December 24 ~ Tracy & Danette Raph Family

Brainerd Lakes Resource Guide - Loni is checking into to see if we still have time to get an ad submitted.

Old Business:

5. Growing Faith's congregation ~ Starting with current non-active members to become active

6. Staying in communication with other parishes

Deacon: Shari Curell for December

Closing Prayer: Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Shari Curell Council Secretary

God's Global Barnyard

These are the gifts given to God's Global Barnyard this year from these members of Faith.

Bob & Julie Bergman: Pig, goat, school fees and uniform for a girl.

Allan & Carol Buchite: Honey Bees, goat

Loy & Janet Stromberg: Roosters, chicks, goat

Bubby & Arlyn Carlson: Honey bees

Bonnie Schlapkohl: Latrine

Paul & Janis Allen: Goat

Jo Swoverland: Water filter, school supplies

Tom Swoverland: Chicks, school fees and uniform for a girl.

Lee & Janice Yarger: Pig

The total came to \$655.00. Outstanding!

**GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE
JEWELS OF LIFE.. DIFFICULT TO
FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO
REPLACE!**

SIX LITTLE STORIES

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That's FAITH.

{2} When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them.

That's TRUST.

{3} Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up.

That's HOPE.

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That's CONFIDENCE.

{5} We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children.

That's LOVE.

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'

That's ATTITUDE.

Have a happy day and live your life like the six stories.

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, 'They couldn't get a babysitter.'

Christmas Letters from Former Pastors:

Dear Friends and Relatives,

Greetings from Waupaca! A gentle snowstorm is whitening the landscape this morning. This reminds us of growing up on the farm years ago. It was always a challenge to get to the Christmas Eve children's program at the church with wintry weather pending.

Fredrick had an aortic valve replacement to the heart last spring. He was operated on at a hospital in Appleton with 4 surgeons assisting. Son John and daughter Ellen stayed with him during and after the operation. He is still a member of the American Legion and bowls with the senior league.

Pauline continues to be busy with the usual household duties. Her sewing machine gave up so she had to buy a new one. It reminded her of the saying: the difference between men and boys is the price of their toys. Of the over 400 quilts our church Trinity sent to Lutheran World Relief, Pauline sewed 10. Her cat, Sparky, sleeps nearby as she sews. She plays bridge once a week with a foursome of ladies.

In closing may you reflect with this poem:

May the wisdom of the Wise men,
The beauty of the star
The faithfulness of the shepherds
Who traveled from afar
The glory of the Christ child
Cradled in the hay
Again bring happiness to you
This Christmas holiday.

May you have a joyous Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pauline and Fred Lueders

Christ Jesus is the reason for the season and our Lord and Savior.

Helping out in church and community continues to shape my days.

Reading remains a pleasure – both fiction and non-fiction.

Into (still) gardening and bread-baking

Staying home for Christmas but will make a May trip for a great-nieces graduation.

Thankful for recovery from an unexpected health issue.

Max, my dog is showing his age but still eager for our walks.

Always thankful for friends old and new.

So much pray that you have a blessed Christmas and a new year full of peace, love and joy.

Barbara Linder

Resolution

I won't look back; God know the fruitless efforts, the wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets; I'll leave them all with Him who blots the record, and mercifully forgives and then forgets.

I won't look forward; God sees all the future, the road that, short or long, will lead me home, and He will face with me its every trial, and bear with me the burdens that may come.

But I'll look up; into the face of Jesus, for there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled; and there is joy and love, and light for darkness and perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

Gospel Thoughts

The Gospel (Good News about God in Jesus Christ) is the “power of salvation” as the Scriptures say. It is not merely a doctrine or a philosophical way of describing how things work between God and people, it is an actual power, like the power of a fiancée or loving parent has when drawing another person into a good and faithful relationship.

1. **The Gospel** does not tell me what to do to be saved. It tells me that I do not need to do anything to be saved.
2. **The Gospel** does not demand a response of faith – it CREATES a response of faith.
3. **The Gospel** does not say that I decide for Christ. It says Christ decided for me! And it both draws and invites me to live in the decision God in Christ made for me.
4. **The Gospel** says that even when I don't believe in God, God believes in me!
5. **The Gospel** does not tell me God will love me if I repent and have faith – it tells me I can repent and have faith because God loves me.
6. **The Gospel** is not cheap grace. A cheap grace is no grace – it is only conditional grace offered at low prices. Grace is so precious it cannot be bought at any price, only received.
7. **The Gospel** is always necessary. Whatever else I need to hear, including the law that kills me – I always need to be raised up to new life!
8. **The Gospel** frees me from the job of earning God's love **for** the job of loving my neighbor. (Note: this is the “yoke” that Jesus commands us to take from him in Matthew's gospel; “Take my yoke upon you, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light”) God doesn't scare me into believing...who loves the one who scares them?
9. **The Gospel** does not tell me what to do to get God to love me – it tells me there is nothing I can do to STOP God from loving me!

Bishop Tom Aitkin

At the prodding of my friends I am writing this story. My name is Mildred Honor. I am a former elementary school Music Teacher from Des Moines, Iowa.

I have always supplemented my income by teaching piano lessons....Something I have done for over 30 years. During those years, I found that children have many levels of musical ability, and even though I have never had the prodigy, I have taught some very talented students. However, I have also had my share of what I call 'Musically Challenged Pupils.

One such Pupil being Robby. Robby was 11 years old when his Mother (a single mom) dropped him off for his first piano lesson. I prefer that students (especially boys) begin at an earlier age, which I explained to Robby. But Robby said that it had always been his Mother's dream to hear him play the piano, so I took him as a student.

At the end of each weekly Lesson he would always say 'My Mom's going to hear me play someday.' But to me, it seemed hopeless, he just did not have any inborn ability. I only knew his Mother from a distance as she dropped Robby off or waited in her aged car to pick him up. She always waved and smiled, but never dropped in.

Then one day Robby stopped coming for his lessons. I thought about calling him, but assumed that because of his lack of ability he had decided to pursue something else. I was also glad that he had stopped coming. He was a bad advertisement for my teaching!

Several weeks later I mailed a flyer recital to the students' homes. To my surprise, Robby (who had received a flyer) asked if he could be in the recital. I told him that the recital was for current pupils and that because he had dropped out, he really did not qualify.

He told me that his Mother had been sick and unable to take him to his piano lessons, but that he had been practicing. 'Please Miss Honor, I've just got to play,' he insisted. I don't know what led me to allow him to play in the recital - perhaps it was his insistence or maybe something inside of me saying

that it would be all right.

The night of the recital came and the high school gymnasium was packed with parents, relatives and friends. I put Robby last in the program, just before I was to come up and thank all the students and Play a finishing piece. I thought that any damage he might do would come at the end of the program and I could always salvage his poor performance through my 'Curtain Closer'.

Well, the recital went off without a hitch, the students had been practicing and it showed. Then Robby came up on the stage. His clothes were wrinkled and his hair looked as though he had run an egg beater through it. 'Why wasn't he dressed up like the other students?' I thought. 'Why didn't his Mother at least make him comb his hair for this special night?'

Robby pulled out the piano bench, and I was surprised when he announced that he had chosen to play Mozart's Concerto No.21 in C Major. I was not prepared for what I heard next. His fingers were light on the keys, they even danced nimbly on the ivories. He went from Pianissimo to Fortissimo, from Allegro to Virtuoso; his suspended chords that Mozart demands were magnificent! Never had I heard Mozart played so well by anyone his age.

After six and a half minutes, he ended in a Grand Crescendo, and everyone was on their feet in wild applause!!! Overcome and in tears, I ran up on stage and put my arms around Robby in joy.

'I have never heard you play like that Robby, how did you do it? Through the microphone Robby explained: 'Well, Miss Honor, remember I told you that my Mom was sick? Well, she actually had cancer and passed away this morning. And well... she was born deaf, so tonight was the first time she had ever heard me play, and I wanted to make it special.'

There wasn't a dry eye in the house that evening. As people from Social Services led Robby from the stage to be placed in to foster care, I noticed that even their eyes were red and puffy. I thought to myself then how much richer my Life had been for taking Robby as my pupil.

No, I have never had a prodigy, but that night I became a prodigy...of Robby. He was the teacher and I was the pupil, for he had taught me the meaning of perseverance and love and believing in yourself, and maybe even taking a chance on someone and you didn't know why.

Robby was killed years later in the senseless bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in April, 1995.

So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice. Do we act with compassion or do we pass up that opportunity. If God didn't have a purpose for us, we wouldn't be here!

Live Simply.
Love Generously.
Care Deeply.
Speak Kindly.
Leave The Rest To God.

The Hand of God

Little Philip was spending the weekend with his grandmother after a particularly trying week in pre-school. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother commented, "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?" "Yes," replied Philip, "God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother so she asked him, "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?" "Well," said Philip, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hands."

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.



Raph among the top 50!

Pine River/Backus junior **Brady Raph**, son of Tracy and Danette, was named one of the Top 50 Class A Minnesota State boys basketball players after averaging 14.1 points per game and making 81 percent of his free throws in his sophomore season, according to Minnesota Basketball News.

Be sure and take in a basketball game, or two, and cheer on two of our youth. Brady Raph and Trevor Redding.

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

What did Jesus say brings greater joy in heaven than 99 righteous people?

- A. The singing of angels
- B. One sinner who repents
- C. 100 righteous people
- D. None of the above



Answer: B (See Luke 15:7.)

Enter in

Tired of making small talk at church about the weather or sports? Then follow Edward Welch's advice to "enter in" to the lives of your fellow worshipers.

A church goer once asked Welch, author of *Caring for One Another* (Crossway), two simple yet profound questions: "What was the best thing about your week, and what was the worst thing about your week?" About a month later, when some issues were weighing heavily on Welch's heart, he wondered who'd be willing to pray for him. Immediately, the person who'd asked him those two questions came to mind.

When worshipers are willing to enjoy one another's blessings and be burdened by one another's difficulties, Welch says, the body of Christ gets built up.



Poinsettia's given for Christmas 2018

Name _____ In Memory Of

Paul & Janis Allen	Parents & David Satherlie
Kenneth Peterson Family	Kenneth Peterson
Bonnie Schlapkohl	Vaughn & Folks
Tom & Jo Swoverland	Loved Ones
Keith & Carol Moser	Loved Ones
Bubby & Arlyn Carlson	Loved Ones
Bill Korman	Pastor Mar
Bill Korman	Loved Ones
Loy & Janet Stromberg	Loved Ones
Tracy & Danette Raph	Loved Ones
Bob & Julie Bergman	Moser/Bergman Parents & Audrey
Loni Porta	(2) Loved Ones
Shari Curell	Grandparents
Shari Curell	Richard Rubey
Dave & Donna Bollie	Loved Ones
Cary Peterson & Kevin Greene	Loved Ones
Allan & Carol Buchite	Barb Buchite & Jim Malzahn
Mari Day O'Brien	Bertha Riley
Mari Day O'Brien	Gloria Goldenstein
Don & Loni Niles	Roxy Niles
Don & Loni Niles	Tom Anderson

Little Johnny is always being teased by the other neighborhood boys for being stupid. Their favorite joke is to offer Johnny a choice between a nickel and a dime. Johnny always takes the nickel. One day after Johnny takes the nickel, a neighbor takes him aside and says, "Johnny, those boys are making fun of you. Don't you know that a dime is worth more than a nickel, even though the nickel's bigger?" Johnny grins and says, "Well, if I took the dime they would stop doing it, and so far I've made \$20."

A Minnesota Poem

It's winter in Minnesota and the gentle breezes blow. Seventy miles an hour at thirty-five below.

Oh, how I love Minnesota, when the snow's up to your butt, you take a breath of winter snow and your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful, so I guess I'll hang around. I could never leave Minnesota 'cause I'm frozen to the ground.

A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: I'm praying but can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying the letters, and God will put them together for me because he knows what I'm thinking.

My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn. My house isn't dirty. The cobwebs are gone. My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn. I think I might never put my glasses back on.

"Courage is being scared to death - but saddling up anyway." – John Wayne

Community Days

Monday, January 21 – 1-4 p.m.

Fun for the entire family! Free tubing, free rock climbing indoors, free laser tag, free hot chocolate and cookies. At **Trout Lake Camp!** 10173 Trout Lake Drive, Pine River, MN 56474 218.543.4565.

Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face-lift.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2 Choir Practice 5:00	3	4	5 
6 Worship Schedule 9:30 Worship Holy Communion Hunger Offering	7 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	8	9 Choir Practice 5:00	10	11	12
13 Choir Sings Worship Schedule 9:30 Worship Coffee Time Hat Day	14 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	15 SCC meets at 2:00	16 Choir Practice 5:00	17 	18	19
20 Worship Schedule 9:30 Worship Holy Communion Council meets	21 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	22	23 Choir Practice 5:00	24 Senior Foot Care 10:30-1:30 at The Warehouse in Pine River.	25	26 Newsletter Deadline!!
27 Choir sings Worship Schedule 9:30 Worship	28 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	29 Memory Care 10:30-11:45 at Life- house Cafe Pine River	30 2:00 Newsletter Assembly Choir Practice 5:00	31		

Deacon: Tracy Raph **Altar:** Jo Swoverland
Ushers: Bonnie Schlapkohl **Coffee Time:** Tracy & Danette Raph

2019