

Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

10973 County Rd.1,

Pine River, MN 56474

Address Service Requested



2020



United We Stand

"We Serve God by Serving Others"

Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

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Pine River MN 56474

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CHURCH in the WOODS

Newsletter

Catch the Spirit, come worship with us!

Church has been cancelled!

Actually, the “church” is not a building. It is the people who worship there. We are the church! Just because we are unable to attend worship in a building does not mean we are not a church.

Pastor Lee is writing sermons and posting them on our website. You can read them each week by going to www.faithswanburg.com. I hope you do and get inspired to pass that information on to your friends and relatives.

We are to be an example to our friends and neighbors as to what the church really is. People who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

These are trying times in our country and we need to do everything we can to stay safe and support one another. Fear is not something as Christians we should worry about. Trust in God and do what you can to stay safe and help others if possible.

Psalm 91

We live within the shadow of the Almighty, sheltered by the God who is above all gods.

This I declare, that he alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God and I am trusting him. For he rescues you from every trap, and protects you from the fatal plague. He will shield you with his wings! They will shelter you. His faithful promises are your armor. Now you don't need to be afraid to the dark any more, nor fear the dangers of the day; nor dread the plagues of darkness, nor disasters in the morning.

Though a thousand fall at my side, though ten thousand are dying around me, the evil will not touch me. I will see how the wicked are punished but I will not share it.

For Jehovah is my refuge! I choose the God above all gods to shelter me, how then can evil overtake me or any plague come near? For he orders his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will steady you with their hands to keep you from stumbling against the rocks on the trail. You can safely meet a lion or

step on poisonous snakes, yes, even trample them beneath your feet!

For the Lord says, “Because he loves me, I will rescue him; I will make him great because he trusts in my name. when he calls on me I will answer; I will be with him in trouble, and rescue him and honor him. I will satisfy him with a full life and give him my salvation.”

Food For Thought

One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my daughter, Aspen, spoke up from her relaxed position in her seat. "Dad, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant she had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that her six-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" I asked. "The rain!" she began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away." After the chill bumps raced up my arms I was able to respond. "That's really good, Aspen."

Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little girl take this revelation? So I asked... "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?" Aspen didn't hesitate one moment with her answer:

"We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us." I will always remember this whenever I turn my wipers on.

DONATION

Father O'Malley answers the phone
"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?" "It is"
"This is the IRS. Can you help us?" "I can"
"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?" "I do"
"Is he a member of your congregation?" "He is"
"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."

Please continue to pray for these persons who have ongoing health problems: **Pat Welf, Brian Busby, Carol Carlson, Arlyn Carlson, Dave Bollie, Danny Raph, Donna Bollie, Bertella Raph, John Terhar, Ronnie Buchite, Neal Buchite, Tom Swoverland, Howard Peterson, and Annette Petschl.**

Financial Report: January 1-31, 2020

General Fund Income: \$ 2,274.03

General Fund Expense: - 2,395.16
\$ -121.13

Anniversaries

April

15 – Rod & Jan Johnson
28 – Bob & Julie Bergman



See you in church. What a difference a month makes! It looks like the Faith choir is getting a "ready or not" break for a while. How different all of our lives seem these days with our activities restricted. Thankfully we can still keep in contact with folks via our phones/emails, etc. I'm usually a fan of mailing cards, but am rethinking that some now, too.

But remember we can all keep singing even in our limited spaces. And when we're outside walking, remember you can just belt out a song. Singing is a great stress reliever and a wonderful way to display your emotions. Just think, when this Corona virus subsides, your singing voice will be in tip top shape. You'll want to join a church choir, for sure.

See you in church (I hope soon)!
In harmony, JMB

Birthdays

April

04—Shari Rubey-Curell
05 – Abby Pratt
07 – Jamie Kline
14 – Jayda Anderson
14 – Michael Shetka
15 – Graham Satherlie
17 – Carol Carlson
17 – Jay Peterson
17 – Nichole Weber
19 – Jerry Raph
22 – Carson Mahant
24 – David Peterson
26 – Scott Peterson
29 – Brent Nielsen
29 – Gauge Weber

Loosed from death



Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

Easter

Background

Easter is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary (c. 30 A.D.). It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer and penance.

Most Christians refer to the week before Easter as “Holy Week”—it contains the days of the Easter Triduum, including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Eggs

Did you know the Easter egg is likely linked to pagan traditions? The Egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring.

From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus’ emerging from the tomb and resurrection.

According to some sources, decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, and then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Trivia

Did you know the first White House Easter Egg Roll occurred in 1787 when Rutherford B Hayes was president?

Did you know that in Australia, bunnies are considered pests that ruin crops and land? Aussies celebrate with their native marsupial, the bilby, which has large ears and a more pointy nose.

Did you know the Easter Bunny first arrived in America in the 1700’s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and transported their tradition of an egg-laying hare called “Osterhase” or “Oschter Haws”?

Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit’s Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests.

A Sign of Spring

In *The Story of the Easter Robin*, Dandy Daley Mackall retells an old Pennsylvania Dutch tale of the Robin’s compassion as he witnessed Jesus’ death.

On Good Friday, a plain brown robin flying over Jerusalem was curious about the “nest” atop Jesus’ head. When the bird realized it was a crown of thorns, he tried to dislodge it. As the robin pulled out a long thorn from Jesus’ forehead, a drop of blood landed on the bird’s breast, staining it red. Now the robin’s red breast is a symbol of Jesus’ loving sacrifice, and the robin’s early-spring song is a reminder of Jesus’ joyful resurrection.

Easter Joy

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
Let round the world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Invisible and visible,, their notes let all things blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that hath no end.
—St. John of Damascus

I arise today through...from St. Patricks Breastplate
God’s strength to pilot me;
God’s might to uphold me;
God’s wisdom to guide me,
God’s eye to look before me,
God’s ear to hear me,
God’s word to speak to me.
God’s hand to guard me,
God’s way to lie before me,
God’s shield to protect me,
God’s host to save me!

Remembering Dietrich

Bonhoeffer

The Christian church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (*Life Together*)

The joy of the Resurrection

We Christians simply cannot get over the reality of the Resurrection. For us, the fact that God raised Christ from the dead proves that Christ’s way alone is God’s answer to the sins and horrors of the world. The truths Christ brought when he walked on Earth stand solid and irrefutable. The light he brought is the only light that never goes out for it is the eternal light of God’s glory.

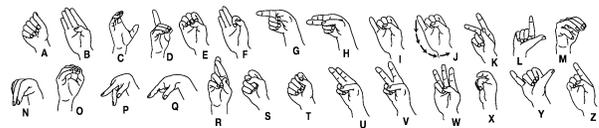
Christ’s life is truly the clearest example of how God intends for us to live. Christ’s way is the way that makes the most sense for living on this earth. The true saints have proven that over and over.

The hope which Christ offers us is the only true and lasting hope. Ultimately, it is our only real assurance that life can be good and joyous for everyone. Read the words St. Paul wrote to the church at Rome and

apply it to your own life: “Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:4-5, nrsv). If that is not a tremendous cause for abiding joy, then what is?

Puzzle!

Hands play a key role in the biblical accounts of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Use this sign-language alphabet to retell what happened.



Jesus’ _____ were _____

to the tree. Two criminals were also crucified,

one on the _____

and the other on the _____ of Jesus. Jesus

cried out with a loud voice, “ _____ ,

into your _____ I commit my spirit.”

(Luke 23:46) Jesus’ friends _____

him from the cross to the tomb. Jesus showed

_____ his _____ to prove

he was Christ. Bring your _____ together

in _____ , and thank God for his

Son, Jesus!

Answer: hands, nailed, right, hand, left, Father, hands, carried, Thomas, hands, hands, prayer

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? (Written by kids)

(1) You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.
- Alan, age 10

(2) No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.
- Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

(1) Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.
- Camille, age 10

(2) No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married.
- Freddie, age 6 (very wise for his age)

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

(1) You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.
- Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MUM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

(1) Both don't want any more kids.
- Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

(1) Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.
- Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

(2) On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.
- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING SOUR?

(1) I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.
-Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

(1) When they're rich.
- Pam, age 7

(2) The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.
- Curt, age 7

(3) The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do.
- Howard, age 8

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

(1) It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.
- Anita, age 9 (bless you child)

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

(1) There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?
- Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favourite is.....

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

(1) Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.
- Ricky, age 10

" A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour."

Life Is A Gift.

Today before you think of saying an unkind word -
Think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food
- Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife
- Think of someone who's crying out to God for a
companion.

Today before you complain about life
-Think of someone who died too early.

Before you complain about your children - Think of
someone who desires children but is barren.

Before you complain about your house - Think of the
people who are living in the streets.

And when you are tired and resent your job - Think
of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wish
they had your job.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down
- Put a smile on your face and thank God you're alive
and still around.

LIFE IS A GIFT, LIVE IT, ENJOY IT CELEBRATE IT, FULFILL IT!!!!

In Richardson, Texas a State Trooper was running radar. He had a perfect spot to watch for speeders, but wasn't getting any. Then he discovered the problem. A 12 year-old boy was standing up the road with a hand painted sign, which read "RADAR TRAP AHEAD!" The officer later found a young accomplice down the road with a sign reading, "TIPS" and a bucket full of money. (And we used to just sell lemonade!)

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.”

—Virgil A. Kraft

Does God Allow Pain

This is one of the best explanations of why God allows pain and suffering that I have seen. It's an explanation other people will understand.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: 'I don't believe that God exists.' 'Why do you say that?' asked the customer. 'Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine loving a God who would allow all of these things.'

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and un-kept.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: 'You know what? Barbers do not exist.' 'How can you say that?' asked the surprised barber. 'I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!'

'No!' the customer exclaimed. 'Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside.' 'Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me.'

'Exactly!', affirmed the customer. 'That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world.'

BE BLESSED & BE A BLESSING!

'Do not ask the Lord to guide your footsteps if you're, not willing to move your feet'

Food For Thought

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "how heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it.

"If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. "

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on."

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it!"

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- * Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- * Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- * Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- * Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.
- * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- * It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- * Never buy a car you can't push.

- * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- * Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- * Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- * The second mouse gets the cheese.
- * When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- * Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- * You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- * Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once
- * We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.

A Modern-day Parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men?

Easter Around the World

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

Things Aren't Always as They Appear

A woman was flying from Seattle to San Francisco. Unexpectedly, the plane was diverted to Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would re-board in 50 minutes.

Everybody got off the plane except one lady who was blind. The man had noticed her as he walked by and could tell the lady was blind because her Seeing Eye Dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of her throughout the entire flight.

He could also tell she had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached her, and calling her by name, said, "Kathy, we are in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" The blind lady replied, "No thanks, but maybe my dog would like to stretch his legs."

Picture this:

All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye Dog!

The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!

True story.... Have a great day and remember...
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR.

Aging....

Sitting on the side of the road waiting to catch speeding drivers, a state trooper sees a car puttering along at 22 mph. He thinks to himself, "This driver is as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five elderly ladies - two in the front seat and three in the back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, Officer, I don't understand. I was going the exact speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

The trooper trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that 22 was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken."

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We just got off Route 127."

As income tax time approaches, did you ever notice: When you put the two words 'The' and 'IRS' together, it spells **'THEIRS'?**

Reporters interviewing a 109 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure." The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>Please stay home as much as possible and stay safe. So far no one in the congregation has caught the virus. Let's pray for each other and our friends and neighbors.</p>			<p>1. No Choir until further notice.</p>	<p>2.</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>4.</p> 
<p>5. No Worship until further notice due to the virus</p>	<p>6. Check First! A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake</p>	<p>7.</p>	<p>8.</p>	<p>9.</p>	<p>10.</p>	<p>11.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>13. A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake</p>	<p>14.</p>	<p>15.</p> 	<p>16.</p>	<p>17.</p>	<p>18.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>20. A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake</p>	<p>21.</p>	<p>22.</p>	<p>23. Check first! Senior Foot Care 10:30-1:30 at The Warehouse in Pine River. Cost \$30</p>	<p>24.</p>	<p>25. Newsletter Deadline!!</p>
<p>26.</p>	<p>27. A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake</p>	<p>28. Check first! Memory Care 10:30-11:45 at Life- house Cafe Pine River</p>	<p>29. 2:00 Newsletter Assembly</p>	<p>30.</p>	<p>Ushers are needed for: September. Coffee Servers for: July, August & September.</p>	
<p>Deacon: Nichole Ackerman Altar: Janis Allen Ushers: Loni Porta Coffee Time: Loni Porta</p>						

2020