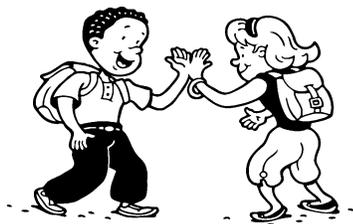


**Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg**

10973 County Rd.1,

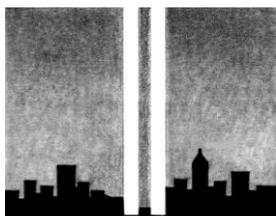
Pine River, MN 56474

Address Service Requested



**September**

2020



IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
SEPTEMBER 11

United We Stand

**"We Serve God by Serving Others"**



Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

10973 Co, Rd, 1

Pine River MN 56474

Church (218) 543-4878

email: [faith@uslink.net](mailto:faith@uslink.net)

Web Site: [www.faithswanburg.com](http://www.faithswanburg.com)

Web Master: Loni Porta

Editor: Janis Allen

**CHURCH in the WOODS**

*Newsletter*

**Catch the Spirit, come worship with us!**

## Calming Effect

I was scrolling through Facebook the other morning, and one of my friends shared a photo of a prayer. It began, “Dear Jesus,” followed by a jumble of letters. Then, “Amen”.

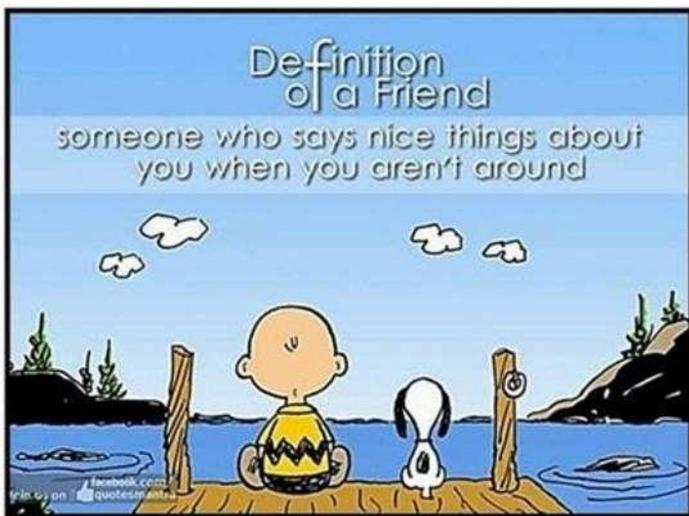
The caption on the photo was Romans 8:26: “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that the very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”

If you are like me, then you too might find yourself at a loss for words to add to your prayers. My heart, at times, feels so heavy I do not even know where to begin.

But that’s where passages like this one from Paul to the Romans can have a calming effect. The message that Paul gives us is one of hope in the midst of despair.

We know that the Holy Spirit is always among us, and we are not alone. We know that God is present in our greatest hope.

This message is an excerpt from a [Women of the ELCA blog](#) by Jennifer Michael



**Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.**

**Life is beauty, admire it.**

**Life is a dream, realize it.**

**Life is a challenge, meet it.**

**Life is a duty, complete it.**

**Life is a game, play it.**

**Life is a promise, fulfill it.**

**Life is sorrow, overcome it.**

**Life is a song, sing it.**

**Life is a struggle, accept it.**

**Life is a tragedy, confront it.**

**Life is an adventure, dare it.**

**Life is luck, make it.**

**Life is life, fight for it."**

## Mother Teresa

I golfed with a hilarious 78 year old, and he was dishing out life tips the whole time. The most interesting guy I’ve ever met. He tells me after the round “don’t talk to me in the parking lot, my wife is picking me up and she thinks I went deaf 5 years ago. What a legend!

## Alpha & Omega

God created this world,  
everything that it holds.  
And God still is creating  
as each day unfolds.

What we once called the future,  
we now call the past.  
While the present is fleeting,  
God stays — first and last!

—Peggy Ferrell

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

**Donna Bollie** had a piece of the middle lobe of her right lung removed and is at home doing well. Please keep her and Dave in your thoughts and prayers.

**Bill Korman** had further tests and his cancer has grown 20%, which the doctor said was good! At least it wasn't more. He will be having more chemo treatments so will need lots of good thoughts and prayers. He has been able to go home on weekends when his kids can take him.

## Church Needs List

Plastic Spoons  
Clorox disinfecting wipes

## Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake, may we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

From Pastor Kristen Oltman  
Crosslake Lutheran Church

## Anniversary's

### September

- 01 – Mike & Katie Shetka
- 07 – Steve & Beate Braker
- 22 – Brad & Patty Nelson
- 24 – Kelly & Ann Raph
- 26 – Jerry & Patty Anderson

## Birthdays

### September

- 03—Bobbie Jo Johnson
- 03 – Ramona O'Brien
- 04 – Brianna Israelson
- 06 – Bill Korman
- 09 – Tyler Tappe
- 15 – Clay Schulte
- 16 – Donna Bollie
- 16 – Chloe Bryant
- 16 – John Schultz
- 17 – Kyle Peterson
- 17 – Jason Sheffield
- 18 – Ashley Pratt
- 18 – Joseph Peterson
- 18 – Whitney Adkins
- 21 – Jacob Shetka
- 25 – Yvonne DeTuncq "BeBop"
- 26 – Katherine MacInnes
- 28 – Janis Allen
- 28 – Kyle Raph
- 29 – Amber Tappe Borstad
- 30 – Christine Carlson



Now we're to another September again. How did that happen? This summer has seemed full even though many of our events have been cancelled. Maybe it's because we're getting used to the less busy life style.

The bell at Faith continues to ring at 9:30 am each Sunday. It was overheard from a close by neighbor that they thought our bell must be on an automatic timer. A big thanks to Tom Swoverland for doing that so faithfully.

Our summer church/choir friends, Gordon & Mary Long, shared what they had heard about an alternative to singing while wearing masks in church. It was to "hum" rather than singing. They said it was a beautiful sound. Maybe we should give that a try when church resumes. 'Word is that a target date for reopening Faith might be the first Sunday in October. It will be wonderful to gather again with our church family.

I don't have any plans at this time to restart choir rehearsals. I'm assuming that all of the choir singers are continuing to vocalize on a regular basis so that if we get the green light, we can quickly get some songs ready.

In the meantime, stay healthy and hopeful. See you in church.

In harmony, JMB

**H**appiness is found in little things, a baby's smile, a letter from a friend, the song of a bird, a beautiful sunset.

## **This is my Song**

(Finlandia) by Jean Sibelius

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine  
This is my home, the country where my heart is;  
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;  
But other hearts in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.  
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,  
Your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.  
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,  
And hearts united learn to live as one.  
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations,  
Myself I give you, let your will be done.

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for men in every place;  
And yet I pray for my beloved country,  
The reassurance of continued grace;  
Lord help us find our oneness in the Savior  
In spite of differences of age and race. Amen.

## **Witnesses at work**

It is at work more than at church that the real moral — and immoral — decisions are being rendered about the health of our planet, our bodies, our children, our very souls.

Work is the adult arena for spiritual decision-making, whether we are talking about the waste our species spews into the earth, or the violence and titillating sex that dominates our television programming, or the inane political issues that get raised to fever pitch in order to drown out the real issues. It is in our work ... that the moral issues of our lives play out. And ... it is in our work that spirituality itself will be redeemed.

—Matthew Fox, *Confessions*

## **An Alternative To A Handgun** (or in addition to)

### **Wasp Spray**

I know some of you own GUNS but this is something to think about...

If you don't have a gun, here's a more humane way to wreck someone's evil plans for you.

Did you know this? I didn't. I never really thought of it before. I guess I can get rid of the baseball bat.

**Wasp Spray** A friend who is a receptionist in a church in a high risk area was concerned about someone coming into the office on Monday to rob them when they were counting the collection. She asked the local police department about using pepper spray and they recommended to her that she get a can of wasp spray instead.

The wasp spray, they told her, can shoot up to twenty feet away and is a lot more accurate, while with the pepper spray, they have to get too close to you and could overpower you.

The wasp spray temporarily blinds an attacker until they get to the hospital for an antidote.

She keeps a can on her desk in the office and it doesn't attract attention from people like a can of pepper spray would. She also keeps one nearby at home for home protection.

Thought this was interesting and might be of use.

On the heels of a break in and beating that left an elderly woman in Toledo dead, self-defense experts have a tip that could save your life.

Val Glinka teaches self-defense to students at Sylvania Southview High School.

For decades, he's suggested putting a can of wasp and hornet spray near your door or bed.

Glinka says, "This is better than anything I can teach them." Glinka considers it inexpensive, easy to find, and more effective than mace or pepper spray.

The cans typically shoot 20 to 30 feet; so, if someone tries to break into your home, Glinka says "spray the culprit in the eyes". It's a tip he's given to students for decades.

It's also one he wants everyone to hear. If you're looking for protection, Glinka says look to the spray. "That's going to give you a chance to call the police; maybe get out."

Maybe even save a life. Please share this with all the people who are precious to your life.

## **Choose Peace**

Many of us struggle to find peace in our hopes, life, and work. Peace-making isn't just difficult, it sometimes seem downright impossible.

We are called to make peace even when what really makes sense is throwing in the towel. We are called to rock the boat for justice, to demand more than what the world will give us. We are called to work for the kingdom, to make a place for the kingdom and to notice where the kingdom has already become a part of our reality.

Peacemaking is not left to the people we call activists. But how do we do it? There are no easy answers, only the choice to try. We can choose justice instead of injustice. And we can keep going back to the drawing board, keep refusing to settle, keep hearing the words of Jesus and keep trying to live unto them.

(this message is adapted form "Faith Reflections: Peace is where you make it", written by Brooke Petersen.)

**"Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art."**

**—Stanislaw Jerzy Lec**



### “Pray for one another” James 5:16

We are revising the Prayer Chain as so many changes have been made to the list. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, please call Janis at 543.6339 or 218.821.8440. The list will be made up and you will receive a copy letting you know who will be calling you and who you will be calling.

The Guidelines are:

1. Information is confidential.
2. Limit call to prayer information – no visiting.
3. Calls will be made starting at 8:30 a.m. Please try to keep your line free around this time.
4. For telling accuracy write down the information or at least note the important items.
5. Return “Joy” when someone is doing well. Follow up is important.

Contact the person following your name. If they should happen to be gone, if they have an answering machine, leave a message, and then contact the next person in line.

The last person calls back to the first person verifying information and completion of calls.

If you know of anyone in need of prayer please call **Janis Allen @ 543.6339 or 218.82.8440** to get the Prayer Chain started. Everyone who signs up will receive a sheet of instructions and the list of those who are praying. This has become a very valuable tool for Faith Lutheran. The results have been amazing!

**F.R.O.G.** (Fully Rely On God)

## HUMOROUS FACTS FROM THE BIBLE

- Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?  
A. Ruthless.
- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?  
A. German Shepherds
- Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?  
A. Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
- Q. Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?  
A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.
- Q. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?  
A. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout Judea. Also, a Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.
- Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?  
A. Samson. He brought the house down.
- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?  
A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?  
A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.
- Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?  
A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
- Q. Who is the greatest baby sitter mentioned in the Bible?  
A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.
- Q. Which Bible character had no parents?  
A. Joshua, son of Nun.
- Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?  
A. Because Noah was standing on the deck. (Groannn...)



There will not be an Annual Meeting in September this year due to COVID but there will be Annual Reports available in the entry to the fellowship Hall on September 20, 2020.

**Annual Reports will be due to the Parish Secretary by September 12, 2020.**

The Annual Meeting will have to be re-scheduled after church services resume. Current council members will have to remain on council until the next election.

**Church Services will resume in October unless we can find a pastor who will be able to substitute for Pastor Lee before then. Pastor Lee will not be available until October.**

**When church resumes, we will be following the guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health.**

## **God's surprises**

Don't assume that God will always work in your life the way he always has. A sunset is proof that God colors outside the lines. He has no status quo. Even the laws of nature are his to interrupt. As many times as you've prayed before, today may be the day when God sends the answer so swiftly — so divinely — that you're windburned.

—Beth Moore

## **All workers are essential**

The concept of vocation, Latin for “to call,” previously referred only to a calling to church work. But then Martin Luther emphasized the importance — and even sanctity — of *all* types of labors. The reformer pointed out that “God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor does.”

RJ Grunewald, in a blog post titled “God Makes Pizza,” describes how this looks today: “God is busy about *his* work in the midst of *your* work whether you realize it or not. The laundry, the spreadsheets, the phone calls and the cups of coffee are all deeply spiritual because God is at work in the world. He is serving your family, your coworkers and your community through the work you do. God is at work providing ‘daily bread’ through the work that you do, no matter what that work is.”

## **When God crosses our paths**

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors, and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

# Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

## CODE

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
D	E	H	I	M	N	S	T	W	X	Y	Z			

T  
 4 1 3 3      4 4      2 4 1

1 3 1      3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4      2 4 1

“ 1 1      4 4 2 3 3      ’ 1 3 1

3 3 4 5      4 2 1 4

2      1 3      2 4 1”

Answer: Talk to God and listen for God. “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.”

—Peter Marshall

## Optimism grounded in hope

“I am fundamentally an optimist,” said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair..”

Some say optimism is naïve, “a generic good idea about the future” (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela’s 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God’s power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus’ resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can’t fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa’s first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.

## Grandparents reflect God

A woman and her grandson were spending the day together. Suddenly, the boy had an “a-ha!” expression and asked, “Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?”

The grandmother smiled to herself and mentally polished her halo a bit. “No,” she replied. “How?”

“You’re both old!” the boy said.

Ah, but most grandparents really are like God in many ways — kind, loving, forgiving, understanding, comforting, creative, wise. Above all, they’ve guided us to walk in God’s paths.

Thank you, God, for these special people who have lived long enough to become like you, in many ways.

## ACTS 2:38

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of Church services when she was startled by an intruder. She caught a man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled, "Stop! Acts 2:38! Repent and be baptized, in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven." The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you," "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an Ax and Two 38's!"

**I** feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

## Labor Day reflections

Labor Day brings to mind picnics, cookouts and family gatherings. Falling on the first Monday in September, it marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. But the holiday was created in 1882 to honor the social and economic contributions of American workers.

In a strong economy, it's easy to take for granted the ability to work and be paid well. But times have changed during the past year, with many people still struggling with unemployment and underemployment.

During our holiday celebrations this year, let's give thanks for the jobs we have, pray for those who aren't as fortunate and offer words of encouragement or help to someone who needs it.



**S**ven and Ole went into the garbage hauling business. All they had for a truck was Sven's 1949 Ford pick-up with the grain sides on it. They had just filled it to the top and started out for the dump, when they were stopped by the police. The officer said garbage was blowing off the top of their load and if they didn't find a way to hold it down, he was going to give them a ticket.

So, Ole climbed up on top and laid down spread eagle on top of the garbage. As they drove along, they passed under a bridge. Two Swedes standing on the bridge saw this sight and one of them remarked, "Vell, vould you look at dat! Somebody threw away a perfectly good Norwegian."

**A** Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

**O**le and Lars were on their very first train ride. They had brought along bananas for lunch. Just as they began to peel them, the train entered a long, dark tunnel. "Have you eaten your banana yet?" Ole asked excitedly. "No," replied Lars. "Vell, don't touch it den," Ole exclaimed, "I took jüst vun bite and vent blind!"

## HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

# September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>No Worship until further notice due to the virus. If Worship Resumes see below.</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>No Choir until further notice. When choir resumes see below.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 
<b>6</b> 9:30 Worship Holy Communion Hunger Offering	<b>7</b> A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Choir 5:00	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>SEPTEMBER 11</b> Remembrance	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Worship Hat Day <b>No Coffee Time until further notice</b>	<b>14</b> A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Choir 5:00	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 Worship Holy Communion	<b>21</b> A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Choir 5:00	<b>24 Check first!</b> Senior Foot Care 10:30-1:30 at The Warehouse in Pine River. Cost \$30	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>28</b> A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church	<b>29 Check first!</b> Memory Care 10:30-11:45 at Life- house Cafe Pine River	<b>30</b> Newsletter assembly Choir 5:00			

**Deacon:** Council **Altar:** Janis Allen  
**Ushers:** No one has signed up.

2020