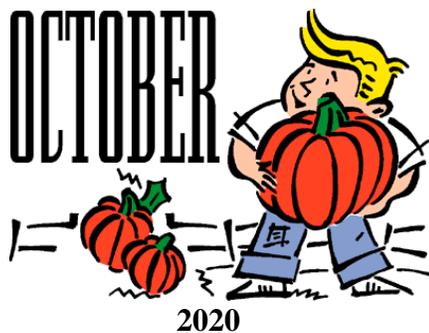


Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

10973 County Rd.1,

Pine River, MN 56474

Address Service Requested



United We Stand

"We Serve God by Serving Others"



Faith Lutheran Church, Swanburg

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CHURCH in the WOODS

Newsletter

Catch the Spirit, come worship with us!

Two Horses

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if you stop your car or walk by, you will notice something quite amazing. Looking into the eyes of one horse you will notice that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down but instead has made a good home for the blind horse. This alone is amazing.

If nearby and listening, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her halter is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see how she is always checking on him. He will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is, trusting that she will not lead him astray. When she returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, she stops occasionally and looks back, making sure her friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by the little ringing bell of those God places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see.

Good friends are like this. You don't always see them, but you know they are always there. Please listen for my bell, and I'll listen for yours!!!

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."

Be ye fishers of men -- you catch them and He'll clean them.

What's Your Spiritual Yield?

In a sermon, Arizona pastor Jane Tews said: "I sometimes imagine what it would be like if the nightly TV news included a kind of Dow Jones report on the spiritual yield. The announcer might say, for instance, 'Well, friends, kindness was up an eighth today, but greed rose by 2 percent. Lust was down a half point in slow trading, and justice showed no change. Patience reached a new high—closing at 72. Love had a narrow gain to 49 percent, but peace plummeted when investors panicked.'"

Tews then added that God's kingdom isn't measured that way. Instead, it's apparent when human need is met, when justice is strengthened, when evil is reversed and when people in bondage are freed. The kingdom becomes a reality when there is a reconciliation among enemies, when false pride is eliminated and when guilt is lifted.

"When a troubled soul searching for identity and meaning takes the risk of faith and accepts Christ as Lord and Savior, that's when the kingdom appears," Tews said.

Giving and Receiving

An unbeliever once asked Christian poet Gerard Manley Hopkins how he himself could come to believe in God. Hopkins answered with two words: "Give alms!" What did Hopkins mean? Perhaps he was saying that if people love enough to help God's suffering children, they'll be opening their souls to God, too.

Paul told the Corinthian Christians that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) and that "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity" (V.11). People who give of themselves and their resources often feel blessed beyond description. They sense that they're doing God's will and reaping the reward of his presence and blessings. One man, known for his giving, said he wouldn't consider cutting back on his generosity. Doing so, he felt, would also stop the flow of blessings God was bestowing on him.

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 has a detached retina which needs surgery to fix it. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Church Needs List

Plastic Spoons
Clorox disinfecting wipes

Someone dropped a bag off at church with a couple hymnals plus other organ/piano music. I haven't gone through it yet, but maybe I can spy some choir material in it. That'll be my next church project.

Today, as I write this article, I'm remembering that it's my dear friend Janis' birthday. She and I started playing the organ at Faith together when we were kids. When I say "together", I mean it. She played the treble notes and I played the bass notes. We share many fond memories of those days. She is still playing the organ at Faith, but by herself now.

Not much singing going on for choir members, but I hope you're all singing at home. Music brightens our spirits so keep on singing.

See you in church when it's safe to open.

In harmony, JMB

Anniversary's

October

17 – Kevin & Joann Swanson



Happy Fall!!

No church services at Faith yet. And of course, no choir either. It's pretty easy to get a little discouraged during these COVID restrictions, but we all have to keep ourselves looking positively into the future. Take one day at a time and find something fun to do. It doesn't take much to amuse me these days which I'm thankful for.

Birthdays

October

04 – Hope Anderson
11 – Leonidus Anderson
12 – Travis Erickson
15 – Harley Erickson
15 – Shelby Zimmerman
16 – Lauri MacInnes
17 – Helen Landholm
18 – Eileen O'Brien
18 – Cory Fornell
21 – Terry Fornell
23 – Rod Johnson
26 – Emily Pratt
30 – Autumn Schmidt



“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.

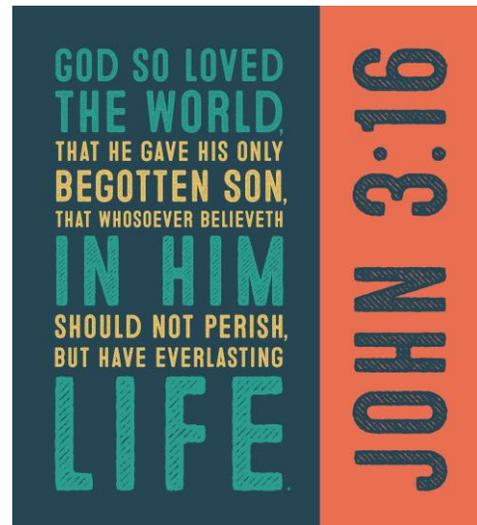
Contact the person following your name. If they should happen to be gone, if they have an answering machine, leave a message, and then contact the next person in line.

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)

The Best Medicine



Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, “My best prescription for head and heart is that ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. “What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity,” he said of John 3:16. “It is the Bible itself!” After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, “They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!”

Goat for Dinner:

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied. "Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'”

Biblical Quiz

1. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?
2. What do they call elders in Germany?
3. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?
4. What was the greatest female financier in the Bible?
5. What kind of motor vehicles are in the Bible?
6. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
7. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?
8. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
9. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?
10. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
11. Which Bible character had no parents?

Find the answers on the next page.

Isn't he always there when we need him?

Come with me to a third grade classroom....

There is a nine-year-old kid sitting at his desk and all of a sudden, there is a puddle between his feet and the front of his pants are wet.

He thinks his heart is going to stop because he cannot possibly imagine how this has happened. It's never happened before, and he knows that when the boys find out he will never hear the end of it. When the girls find out, they'll never speak to him again as long as he lives.

The boy believes his heart is going to stop, he puts his head down and prays this prayer, "Dear God, this is an emergency! I need help now! Five minutes from now I'm dead meat."

He looks up from his prayer and here comes the teacher with a look in her eyes that says he has been discovered.

As the teacher is walking toward him, a classmate named Susie is carrying a goldfish bowl that is filled with water. Susie trips in front of the teacher and inexplicably dumps the bowl of water in the boy's lap.

The boy pretends to be angry, but all the while is saying to himself, "Thank you, Lord! Thank you, Lord!"

Now all of a sudden, instead of being the object of ridicule, the boy is the object of sympathy. The teacher rushes him downstairs and gives him gym shorts to put on while his pants dry out.

All the other children are on their hands and knees cleaning up around his desk.

The sympathy is wonderful. But as life would have it, the ridicule that should have been his has been transferred to someone else - Susie. She tries to help, but they tell her to get out. "You've done enough, you klutz!"

Finally, at the end of the day, as they are waiting for the bus, the boy walks over to Susie and whispers, "You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Susie whispers back, "I wet my pants once too."

May God help us see the opportunities that are always around us to do good.

Show and Tell:

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Lutheran, and this is a casserole."

Answers to Biblical Quiz

1. Ruthless
2. German shepherds.
3. Noah floated his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.
4. Pharaoh's daughter picked up a little prophet in the Jordan.
5. Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury. David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.
6. Samson brought the house down.
7. "your mother ate us out of house and home"
8. Moses broke all 10 commandments at once.
9. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
10. David rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.
11. Joshua, son of Nun.

Halloween

Background: Halloween is celebrated on October 31 and is traditionally known as All Hallows' Eve. It is always the eve of Christian festival All Saints' Day on November 1.

Origins: Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

This day marked the end of summer and the beginning of the dark, cold winter—a time of year often associated with human death. Celts believed on the night before the New Year, the boundary between the world of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

Trick-or-Treat Origins: During some Celtic celebrations of Samhain, villagers disguised themselves in costumes made of animal skins to drive away phantom visitors. In later centuries, people began dressing as ghosts, demons and other

malevolent creatures, performing antics in exchange for food and drink. This custom, known as mumming, dates back to the Middle Ages and is thought to be an antecedent of trick-or-treating.

Trivia: did you know the first Jack O'Lanterns were made out of turnips?

According to legend, if you see a spider on Halloween it's the spirit of a loved one watching you.

Did you know Halloween is the second highest grossing commercial holiday after Christmas.

About 99% of all pumpkins sold are used as Jack O'Lanterns.

About 45% of Americans believe in ghosts.

Eighteen percent of American adults are convinced they've seen or been in the presence of a spirit.

A singular focus

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.

Loved for who we are



When I was a child, my parents loved me not because I was good but because I was ... their child. I loved them, and I wanted to please them, but their love of me did not have to be earned.

Neither does the love of God. We are loved because we are his children, because we are. If we feel that we ought to be loved because it is our due, or because we deserve it, the less we will truly feel the need of God's love; the less implicit will be our trust; the less we will cry out, *Abba!*

—Madeleine L'Engle, *Walking on Water*

Learning from autumn leaves

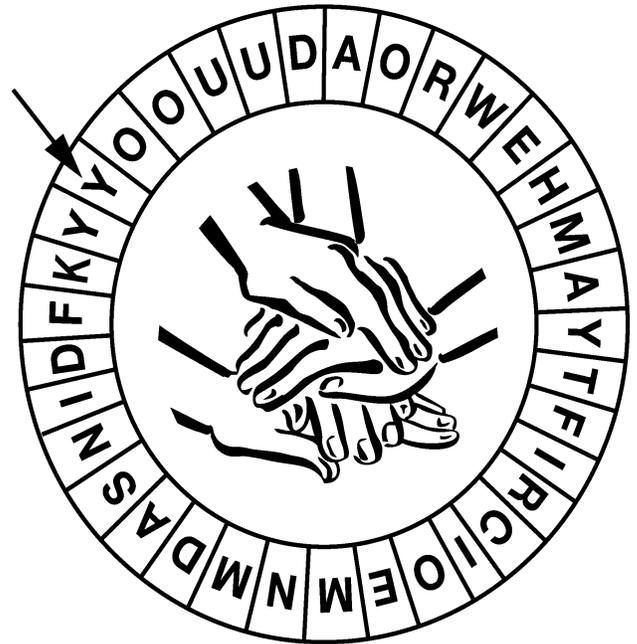
Every fall, I marvel at the beautiful leaves, studying the intricate shapes and God's creative, colorful displays. Despite its deterioration, the foliage reveals splendor — mere months after bursting out in spring and providing summer shade.

I often think I'm like an autumn leaf. Through many seasons, God has transformed me from a self-absorbed person to one who trusts his steadfast promises. Winter is approaching for me too. Yet the Holy Spirit keeps molding me to reflect God's goodness and beauty. During the autumn of my life, I pray that God helps me embrace changing seasons while reflecting his love and light to all.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Puzzle!

Beginning at the arrow and moving clockwise, write every other letter on the spaces below to discover what Jesus says about his friends.



“ Y

_____”

JOHN 15:14, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command.” John 15:14, NIV

Truth + love

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the *Christian Post*, “Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, ‘If you cut off someone’s nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.’ If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener’s nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child’s head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love.”

Perfectly given

When Jesus speaks of perfection, writes Kathleen Norris in *Amazing Grace*, he’s referring to being “mature enough to give ourselves to others.” For Norris, that brings to mind theology professor Catherine LaCugna, who, despite a terminal diagnosis, worked until the end of her life. Instead of checking out or indulging in self-pity, LaCugna kept the news from her students and continued teaching.

Norris writes: “Now, whenever I recite the prayer that ends the church’s liturgical day, ‘May the Lord grant us a peaceful night, and a perfect death,’ it is her death that I think of. A perfect death, fully acknowledged and fully realized, offered for others.”

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”

—Unknown

??

Bible Quiz

??

In Jesus’ parable about people who hear and live by God’s words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks



Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

A new call

Noted preacher Will Willimon received a frantic phone call from parents who feared their college-age daughter was throwing away her life. Asked to intervene, Willimon inquired why she was ending her studies to work with the children of migrant farmers. What had motivated her radical decision?

“It was your sermon yesterday that started me to thinking,” she replied. Willimon had talked about how God wants us to do something important with our lives, leading the young woman to choose a new path that would make more impact and hold more meaning. After a long silence, he stammered, “But I was just preaching!”

Willimon was just preaching, and the worshiper was just attending church while home on break. Yet she perceived a change in calling that led to a change in identity, security, priorities — and fulfillment.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

God's Sabbath Rest

5-year-old girl was traveling with her grandmother across an arid part of Arizona. Having recently learned about the creation of the earth in vacation Bible school, the girl was curious about what she was seeing. After awhile, she pointed out into the desert and asked her grandma, “Is that where God sat while he rested?”

Prayer with a boost

After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, "Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!



Get involved

A cartoon pictured a beggar on the streets of a big city. The beggar was holding a sign which read:

"Know the joy of giving without the slightest risk of involvement."

Sounds enticing, doesn't it? "Give money to a poor fellow like me," implied the sign, "then go on your way with the warm satisfied feeling you get from giving — without any involvement at all."

Think about it. There's nothing wrong with giving and moving on. But what if one did occasionally choose to become more involved?

I think of a homeless man who came to our church for a shower. Some of our church members took time to get to know him, to hear his story, to befriend him and encourage him.

One day he told them that he was giving up his lifestyle. He said that he came from a family of means, but there had been an argument. He had walked away angry, without anything but the clothes he wore.

The friendship of the Christians, their acceptance and encouragement, made him want to be reconciled with his family, so he telephoned home. His father invited him back and even sent a plane ticket. He went home to be part of the family again.

Sometimes involvement is as good as a monetary gift. Maybe better.

—Charles Ferrell

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while you're ahead?"

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach that person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks.

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!"

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
No Worship until further notice due to the virus. If Worship Resumes see below.			No Choir until further notice. When choir resumes see below.	1	2	3 
4 9:30 Worship Holy Communion Hunger Offering	5 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	6	7 Choir 5:00	8	9	10
11 9:30 Worship Hat Day No Coffee Time until further notice	12 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	13	14 Choir 5:00	15 	16	17
18 9:30 Worship Holy Communion	19 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake	20	21 Choir 5:00	22 Check first! Senior Foot Care 10:30-1:30 at The Warehouse in Pine River. Cost \$30	23	24 Newsletter Deadline!!
25 9:30 Worship	26 A.A., Alanon 7 pm Crosslake Lutheran Church	27 Check first! Memory Care 10:30-11:45 at Life- house Cafe Pine River	28 12:00 noon Newsletter assembly Choir 5:00	29	30	31 Set your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed!

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

2020