



JULY NEWSLETTER 2021

Faith Lutheran Church
308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center, MN 55927

July Activities

Sunday, July 4 **Independence Day**

Worship in-person at Faith Lutheran with communion 9:00 am

Monday, July 5

Office closed for holiday

Tuesday, July 6

Wise Guys 9:00 am
Quilting ministry 9:00 am
Ruth Circle 1:30 pm

Wednesday, July 7

Internship Team meeting 6:00 pm

Wednesday, July 7, 14, 21, 28

WOW 9:30 am

Thursday, July 8

Youth/Ed. Team meeting 6:30 pm

Friday, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

AA 6:00 pm

Sunday, July 11

Worship in-person 9:00 am

Tuesday, July 13

Quilting ministry 9:00 am
Funeral Volunteers Luncheon 12:00 pm

Sunday, July 18

Worship in-person at Faith Lutheran 9:00 am
Properties Team meeting 10:00 pm

Tuesday, July 20

Wise Guys 9:00 am
Quilting ministry 9:00 am
Pantry of Faith Distribution Day 12:00-3:00 pm
Church Council meeting 6:00 pm

Thursday, July 22

Pantry of Faith Distribution Day 4:00-7:00 pm
Faith in Action Board 5:15 pm
Personnel Team meeting 7:00 pm

Sunday, July 25

Worship in-person at Faith Lutheran with communion 9:00 am



Pastor Mike Zaske's Message

Categorize what I'm about to share with you under "Truth is Stranger Than Fiction".

Back in 1998, in Central America, the nation of Honduras built a massively expensive, state-of-the-art, new bridge across the Choluteca River. Part of the reason the bridge was so costly had to do with the fact that the river had a tendency to flood often, and the new bridge needed to be able to withstand the worst flooding imaginable.

Well, less than a year after the bridge was completed, a monster hurricane hit Honduras, dumping 75 inches of rain in a matter of a few days. As expected, the Choluteca River

did flood, and the storm killed over 7000 people. It was a terrible tragedy.

But there was one bright spot in the midst of this disaster—the new bridge made it through unscathed!

Even though the bridge stood its ground, there was one problem: After the flood waters receded, the storm had caused the river to carve a completely new path which no longer ran under the bridge. That's right, the new, expensive, state-of-the-art bridge no longer stood over the river, rendering it essentially useless!

So, OK Pastor Mike, neat story—but what does this have to do with Faith Lutheran Church? Let me elaborate on that. Ever since March of 2020, we have been bombarded by the devastating storm known as the COVID-19 Pandemic. And, praise God, as the storm has subsided, we (like the bridge) are still standing!



But...as happened with the waters of the Choluteca River, the pandemic has also caused many things in our lives and our communities to “shift”. As we move forward after the pandemic, we people of Faith Lutheran cannot just assume that everything will be exactly as it was prior to the storm of COVID-19.

To put it this way: In this time where the pandemic “storm” is (hopefully) winding down, we cannot just assume that our “river” will still be running under our “bridge” like it always did before. We must keep our eyes open for how life will be forever different following this past year-and-a-half, and we must be nimble enough to adapt to the new realities we face. If we don’t, the danger is that we could easily become like that bridge in Honduras—still standing, but not serving much of a purpose anymore.

Dear friends, it likely won’t be easy as we navigate the months ahead. But, as my school superintendent told me on my graduation night, “The most meaningful and satisfying things in life aren’t easy, Mike. Great accomplishments will be hard—if they were easy, they wouldn’t be great accomplishments.” We have magnificent members at Faith Lutheran. We have a magnificent God who promises to be with us through anything—easy or difficult. And we have a magnificent 83-year (and counting) track record of thriving through other tough times.

We WILL figure out where the river is flowing now. And, with the Lord’s help, we WILL thrive as we always have in the past.



**MESSAGE FROM
INTERN PASTOR
KIRA ANDERSON**

During COVID-19 I found the mundane of the day hard embrace. I found myself present with a negative attitude and completely exhausted. But as society, and I, have moved “out” of this pandemic I made a physical choice to start each morning and see it as a new opportunity. It is with a posture of gratitude (and a strong cup of coffee) that I try to enter each day!

Sacred Ordinary Days is a planner I have used to help me find focus on the scripture for the week, but it has also helped me in self-reflection for who I am as a mother, wife, daughter and friend. During the month of July, I invite you to start your day with prayerful examination on the previous week and allow space for a reset on your week to come. Sacred Ordinary Days offers this examination in 5 steps.

- 1) Draw near to God. Become present. Reset your mind and heart.
- 2) Reflect on the previous week with a posture of humility and gratitude.
- 3) Note what surfaces. When have you been near to or far from God’s presence?
- 4) Ask God to guide your reflections to be both faithful and gracious.
- 5) Reset for the week to come. Move forward in a spirit of hope.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
 DODGE CENTER | MN

JOIN US FOR
**IN-PERSON
 WORSHIP**

EVERY SUNDAY
 AT 9AM
 FACEBOOK LIVE STILL AVAILABLE
 AT 9AM ON SUNDAYS

INTERIM PASTOR MIKE ZASKE &
 INTERN PASTOR KIRA ANDERSON

308 2ND STREET NW
 507-374-2174
 FAITHMNDCC@GMAIL.COM

BLESSED SERVERS
 YOU'RE INVITED - VOLUNTEER OUTREACH

TUESDAY, JULY 13TH
AT 12:00 NOON

You are invited to serve. As part of our ministry at Faith Lutheran Church we are looking for volunteers to serve on teams during funeral lunches. Join us on Tuesday, July 13th at noon for lunch and information about what we are looking for. We hope you will consider joining us!

RSVP to kira.andersonFLC@gmail.com by July 11th

Faith Lutheran Church (FLC) Response Plan to COVID-19

(FINAL - June 2021)

The well-being of each person remains our primary consideration. The following guidelines are an addendum to our normal building usage policy, and apply to all individuals or groups participating at indoor worship. These guidelines are subject to change at any time. Your presence at worship implies gracious consent to the following:

1. We are committed to safe worship practices for the whole Body of Christ as we reopen the church. Each of us shares the great responsibility to protect the more vulnerable among us who are still at risk from COVID-19.
 - Effective May 28*, anyone who is FULLY VACCINATED may participate in indoor worship without wearing a mask or physical distancing.
 - Anyone NOT FULLY VACCINATED is highly encouraged to consider getting vaccinated, wear a mask, and physically distance at indoor worship. Masks are also encouraged for those who are immunocompromised.
 - Worship will now be offered every Sunday at FLC at 9 am for in-person worship.
2. Streaming (live video/audio broadcasting through the internet) will continue each Sunday. Streaming gives worshippers a choice to participate to worship safely from home.
3. Worshippers must be free of COVID-19 symptoms and any illness.
4. Handling of objects, close greetings or handshakes with fellow members, and other similar contact is discouraged. The offering plate remains in an accessible location during the service. A secure drop box is located at the exterior of the building on the east side, and online giving is an option. Waving and other friendly no-contact greetings are absolutely encouraged.
5. We are implementing the following “return-to-normal” worship activities using a monthly plan.
 - June: Communion with prepackaged elements, singing done by soloist only, the offering plate will remain in the Gathering space.
 - **July: Communion will be prepackaged elements, singing congregational hymns will be offered, the offering plate will remain in the Gathering space.**
 - August: Holy Communion returns to the communion rail, with one space of distance between households. In addition, Communion elements may be offered as a take-home option, and by appointment, singing congregational hymns will be offered, the offering plate will remain in the Gathering Space.
6. OUR KITCHEN REMAINS CLOSED for food preparation. Church rooms are available to pre-approved meetings, please contact the church office if you would like to schedule a meeting indoors. Food that is served at the church must be purchased and prepackaged. Coffee hour after worship remains limited. Please know we are asking one person to pour coffee in an individual’s cup and for carafes to not be used at this time.
7. In the event of a known exposure to COVID-19, our church is required to follow Health Department guidelines, which may include closure, quarantines and further cancellation of activities. To ensure confidentiality, FLC will not provide information beyond public notification of time and date of exposure, and we humbly ask for your prayers for any who are ill.

This update was approved by Council in June 2021.



Faith Lutheran Church Council Regular Monthly Meetings April and May, 2021

Faith Lutheran Church Council Regular Monthly Meeting (in-person Faith Lutheran Church)

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Time: 6:00 pm

Intern Pastor Kira Anderson present Council members present: April Dean, Ryan Schrom (arrived 6:05 pm), Joi Bishop, Tina Kozisek, Stacy Wolf, Randy Langworthy, Shaun Hall, Bill Ketchum, Vicki Schweiger, Kevin Peterson (arrived 6:27pm) Council member absent, Grant D. Erler, Guests present: Pastor Mike Zaske (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order by Council President April Dean at 6:02 pm.

Intern Kira led devotion about general feelings during present times and then led Council in prayer.

Motion to Approve Agenda by Schrom/2nd by Langworthy/Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer, Ryan Schrom noted mortgage balance as of March 31, 2021 is \$118,914.41. Motion to bring long budget report to Special Congregational Meeting to be held on May1, 2021 by Schrom/2nd by Ketchum/Motion carried. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Langworthy/2nd by Hall/Motion carried.

Council President Report. April Dean, presented the Council President report.

Secretary reports from March 23, 2021 regular monthly Council meeting presented by Kevin Peterson. Motion to approve Secretary report by Kozisek/2nd by Bishop/Motion Carried.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: Shaun Hall presented the Building and Grounds report.

Call committee: Call committee is on-hold at present time.

Education and Youth: Joi Bishop reported the committee met on April 13th. May 23, 2021 will be High School Senior Recognition Sunday with an ice cream social to follow for youth of all ages. Prepackaged ice cream will be distributed following COVID-19 protocols. New curriculum is being researched for Sunday School and Confirmation. Possible Vacation Bible School for Summer 2021 is being discussed.

Worship, Arts and Music: Randy Langworthy reported the committee did not meet in March, but that Nadine, Randy, and Kira have been working on the worship music for the online services. Please consider volunteering to serve on the Worship, Arts and Music committee we need you.

Outreach: Vicki Schweiger reported there were 16 families were also served by Pantry of Faith and that 20 were served by Claremont Presbyterian church. A large donation of 700 whole chickens (362 lbs.) was received from Dean Schuette on behalf of the Claremont Presbyterian Church and stored in the Pantry of Faith freezers.

Personnel: Bill Ketchum reported the committee is working on standard job descriptions.

Since Brenda Bronner has moved from Dodge Center a plan will be developed to fill her role as Funeral/Wedding/Altar Banner/Special Event Coordinator. Brenda you will be missed so much. Thank you for your service to Faith Lutheran for so many years.

Bill Ketchum left the meeting (6:55 pm)

Social: No meeting by the committee. Motion by Schweiger (Hall)/2nd by Langworthy/Motion carried to use social committee funds to purchase High School Senior recognition gifts.

IT committee: Tina Kozisek reported the committee met on March 18th at 7pm. The church web site is close to being ready for use. After discussion, motion by Langworthy/2nd by Bishop/Motion carried to purchase for no more than \$5,000 a single camera ATEM mini-pro kit from <http://www.churchsetup.com> to be installed in the sanctuary to enable internet broadcasting of church events.

Intern support committee: Kevin Peterson reported the committee met on April 11th. Intern Pastor Kira's 6 month evaluation has been submitted to Luther Seminary. Intern Pastor Kira has begun the Liturgy calendar project.

Interim Pastor: Pastor Mike Zaske joined the council meeting via zoom to briefly meet and talk with council members. Pastor Zaske is originally from Gaylord, MN and has served as an interim pastor at several different ELCA churches over the past several years. Pastor Mike will join the council (in-person) for the May 25, 2021 council meeting.

Pastor Mike Zaske left the meeting

Old Business

Church Facility: Faith Lutheran will have in-person worship at 9am on May 23rd.

COVID-19 Response Team: The COVID-19 response team met during April and Faith Lutheran will remain open with in-person church on the 1st and 4th Sundays at 9am. Colored wrist bands (green, yellow and red) in order to provide clearer personal social distancing signals by individuals when at church plan is being developed to be implemented soon.

New Business

Intern Pastor Report: Intern Kira presented her intern monthly report. Intern Pastor Kira is asking for sermon feedback forms from Council. Intern Pastor Kira is doing "Hug and a Mug" to meet more church and community members.

Interim Pastor Update. Special congregational meeting to update 2021 budget for hiring interim Pastor Mike Zaske will be held on May 1, 2021 after 9 am in-person worship. If approved, Pastor Mike will attend the May 25, 2021 council meeting in-person, and his interim Pastor position would begin June 1, 2021.

Piano Recital: Council approved piano recital for Nadine's piano students for Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 1pm. Refreshments will not be served.

Sheriff/Fire department walk-through: Plan will be coordinated/developed to have sheriff and fire departments do walk-through of church property.

Motion to Adjourn meeting by Kozisek/2nd by Bishop/Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Council recited Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming Council/Church meetings:

Regular Monthly Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 6pm (in-person)

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Peterson, Secretary

Faith Lutheran Church Council Regular Monthly Meeting (in-person Faith Lutheran Church)

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Time: 6:00 pm

Intern Pastor Kira Anderson present Incoming Interim Pastor Mike Zaske present

Council members present: April Dean, Ryan Schrom, Joi Bishop, Tina Kozisek, Stacy Wolf, Randy Langworthy, Bill Ketchum, Vicki Schweiger, Grant D. Erler, Kevin Peterson

Council member absent: Shaun Hall Guest present: Carol Johnson

Meeting called to order by Council President April Dean at 6:01 pm.

Introductions of Council members, Intern Pastor Kira Anderson and Incoming Interim Pastor Mike Zaske were given.

Interim Pastor Mike gave a brief life and Pastoral summary.

Intern Pastor Kira led a devotion asking those people present to give 1 song that brings back memories.

Pastor Mike gave a presentation about high-level goals for the Interim Pastor period: including becoming too dependent on 1 person, a church should take what they are really good at and make those things even better; where does the church need to focus in its mission after the pandemic; how the church needs to focus on "Noble Causes"; and develop a strategy for the activities of the church; and that it will take significant time for church to get back to "full speed".

Motion to Approve Agenda by Ketchum/2nd by Schrom/Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer, Ryan Schrom noted mortgage balance as of April 30, 2021 is \$113,943.59. Zumbro River ELCA conference dues were discussed, Intern Kira will check about dues that were paid in previous years. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Erler/2nd by Ketchum/Motion carried.

Secretary reports from April 27, 2021 regular monthly Council meeting and May 1, 2021 Special Congregational Meeting presented by Kevin Peterson. Motion to approve Secretary reports by Ketchum/2nd by Erler/Motion Carried.

Council President Report. April Dean, presented the Council President report.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: April Dean presented the Building and Grounds report for Shaun Hall. The committee met on May 16. The small curb island and tree has been removed from the west parking lot to improve drainage.

Call committee: Call committee is on-hold at present time.

Education and Youth: Joi Bishop reported the committee met on May 11. High School Senior Recognition Sunday was held on May 23 with an ice cream social that followed church for youth of all ages. Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of June 7 from 6-7:30pm each evening. New curriculum is being researched for Sunday School and Confirmation.

Worship, Arts and Music: (WAM) Randy Langworthy reported the committee did not meet in May, but that Nadine, Randy, and Kira have been working on the worship music. It is hoped the WAM committee will assume responsibility of changing the Altar draping for the various church seasons. Please consider volunteering to serve on the Worship, Arts and Music committee we need you.

Outreach: Vicki Schweiger reported the Claremont food shelf will not be getting food from us for the next 3 months, they are currently adequately stocked.

Personnel: Bill Ketchum reported the committee met and decided the Funeral coordinator position will not be continued, but a new Wedding Liaison position will be advertised. The Wedding Liaison position will only be present on the wedding day in order to open and lock the church and other specified wedding day needs. The wedding party will be responsible for bringing in their own food catering from outside Faith Lutheran. The Pastor will continue to meet with the wedding couple for other wedding needs as previously done. Non-Faith members will be charged \$15/hr for the Wedding Liaison while Faith members will not be charged for the Wedding Liaison services.

Joi Bishop left at 7:44 pm.

Social: Vicki Schweiger reported there was no May meeting by the committee.

IT committee: Tina Kozisek reported the committee did not meet in May. The church website is in progress.

Intern support committee: Kevin Peterson reported the committee met on May 1. Intern Pastor Kira is working on her Liturgy calendar project.

Old Business

COVID-19 Response Team: The COVID-19 response team met during May and after Interim Pastor Mike Zaske joins our congregation on June 1, Faith Lutheran will begin in-person and online worship every Sunday at 9 am.

New Business

Intern Pastor Report: Intern Kira presented her intern monthly report. Intern Pastor Kira is asking for sermon feedback forms from Council. Intern Pastor Kira is continuing to do "Hug and a Mug" to meet more church and community members.

Interim Pastor Update. Pastor Mike's interim Pastor position will begin June 1, 2021.

Motion to Adjourn meeting by Ketchum/2nd by Langworthy/Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Council recited Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming Council/Church meetings:

Regular Monthly Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6pm (in-person)

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Peterson, Secretary.



Mission Investment Funds

Five-Year Adjustable Secured Loan (mortgage payments)

2021 Beginning Balance	\$ 159,312.84	
Gross payments posted	\$ (52,332.00)	
Interest paid	\$ 1,948.81	
Ending Balance 5/31/21	<u>\$ 108,929.65</u>	\$ 108,929.65

Demand Deposit Funds (funds on deposit to guarantee loan)

2021 Beginning Balance	\$ 26,356.64	
Interest Earned (estimated)	\$ 74.75	
Ending Balance 5/31/21	<u>\$ 26,431.39</u>	\$ (26,431.39)

Building Dedicated Fund (funds recieved not yet applied to loan)

2021 Beginning Balance	\$ 22,579.76	
Income/tithing	\$ 42,214.65	
Payments on debt	\$ (49,620.00)	
Ending Balance 5/31/21	<u>\$ 15,174.41</u>	\$ (15,174.41)

Outstanding balance with all funding applied **\$ 67,323.85**

General Income & Expenses				
	2020		2021	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
January	\$ 17,054	\$ 14,134	\$ 10,315	\$ 12,764
February	\$ 13,527	\$ 18,104	\$ 8,871	\$ 10,200
March	\$ 9,753	\$ 7,845	\$ 10,730	\$ 10,407
April	\$ 13,235	\$ 6,448	\$ 16,167	\$ 9,665
May	\$ 10,355	\$ 4,957	\$ 9,710	\$ 12,321
June	\$ 8,370	\$ 7,765		
July	\$ 14,010	\$ 3,845		
August	\$ 10,448	\$ 5,565		
September	\$ 11,733	\$ 7,200		
October	\$ 10,566	\$ 9,958		
November	\$ 16,827	\$ 9,281		
December	\$ 11,011	\$ 10,164		
Sum:	<u>\$ 146,889</u>	<u>\$ 105,266</u>	<u>\$ 55,794</u>	<u>\$ 55,356</u>
Average:	<u>\$ 12,241</u>	<u>\$ 8,772</u>	<u>\$ 11,159</u>	<u>\$ 11,071</u>

If you have any questions regarding the financial information provided you can contact Ryan Schrom at 507-213-6439 or rschrom5@gmail.com or Mindy Schaefer at mj.schaefer@hotmail.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries



July Birthdays

1. Tony Bishop, Jessica Denter
2. Jeff Keesling, Pierce Petersohn
3. Michelle Bryngelson, Connor Henderson
5. Braeden Moe, Ray Tyler
6. Molly Hinrichsen, Phil Pflaum
9. Vince Arnold, Hudson Hamm, Russ Koehler, Levi Livingood, Jacob Snyder
10. Elijah Schrom, Ethan Wolf
11. Elyse Bester, Megan Koehler
12. Tim Donaldson, Aaron Knutson
14. Audra Connor
15. Elizabeth Hukee
19. Ann Arnold, Malinda Quam, Morgan Rohwer
20. Alice O'Connor Hart
21. Don Henderson
22. Aunika Matejcek
23. Eric Bryngelson, Blakely White
24. Leah Pflaum
25. Jude Gosse, Inger Pearson, Brandon Wolf
27. Kristy Faber, Nolan Shallbetter
28. Alissa Hallaway, Brandon Vermilyea, Jean Weitzenkamp
30. Tegan Ridenour
31. Lauryn Nauman



July Anniversaries

1. Bryan and Karen Marquardt, Doug and Vicki Schweiger
5. Brandon and Stacy Wolf
6. Mike and Sue Anderson
7. Cody and Hillary Laue
11. Dillon and Jessica Denter
14. Jim and Sonja Hruska
15. Jim and Pam Jensen
16. Terry and Robin Viker
24. Vince and Ann Arnold
27. Stephen and Rebecca Knutson



We have many members that are always doing something to make our church home more

inviting. This week we would like to thank Shirley Traff for sewing the new curtains for the Sunday School rooms. They brighten up that area and will be appreciated even more when the education classes meet in the fall.

Another gift that arrived this week were 2 large photo display stands from Sharon Shiek. It will be fun to have all the confirmation pictures and other memorable events from the past placed into these display pages to be enjoyed by members and visitors.



The distribution dates are the 3rd week of the month. Please let anyone that you know who needs food that all they need to do is come to the west parking lot and bring an envelope with their address on it.

July

Tuesday, July 20 ~ 12-3pm

Thursday, July 22 ~ 4-7pm

August

Tuesday, August 17 ~ 12-3pm

Thursday, August 19 ~ 4-7pm

Please contact the church office if you can volunteer!

Faith Lutheran does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

JULY

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:30p AA	3
4 Independence Day 9a Worship at Faith in-person with communion	5 Office closed	6 9a Wise Guys 9a Quilting 1:30p Ruth Circle	7 9:30a WOW 6:30p Internship Team mtg.	8 6:30p Youth/Education Team mtg.	9 6:30p AA	10
11 9a Worship at Faith in-person	12	13 9a Quilting 12p Funeral volunteers luncheon	14 9:30a WOW	15	16 6:30p AA	17 Baptism Harper Tolbert
18 9a Worship at Faith in-person 10a Properties Team mtg.	19	20 9a Wise Guys 9a Quilting 12-3p Pantry of Faith open 6p Council mtg.	21 9:30a WOW	22 4-7p Pantry of Faith open 5:15p Faith in Action Board 7p Personnel Team mtg.	23 6:30p AA	24
25 9a Worship at Faith in-person with communion	26	27 9a Quilting	28 9:30a WOW Baptism Ruby Shallbetter	29	30 6:30p AA	

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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INTERIM PASTOR

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INTERN PASTOR

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Ray Spaulding
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CUSTODIAN

Elizabeth Hukee

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Faith Lutheran Church Newsletter

July 2021



*“Celebrating Faith in Christ by worshipping together
and reaching out in love to all God’s people”*