



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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

Sunday Schedule

8 am Traditional Worship Service
9:05 am Sunday School and Fellowship
10 am Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, October

Worship in-person with communion 8:00 and 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School 9 :05 am

Tuesday, October 5

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

Wednesday, October, 6, 13, 20, 27

WOW (Women on Wednesday bible study) 9:30 am
Confirmation Gr. 5-8 (not on 20)
Confirmation Gr. 9 (6 & 13 only) 7:30 pm

Friday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

AA meetings 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 10

Worship 8:00 and 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School 9:05 am

Tuesday, October 12

Quilting 9:00 am
Youth/Ed. Team meeting 6:30 pm
Deborah Circle 7:00 pm

Sunday, October 17

Worship 8:00 and 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School 9:05 am
Confirmation 1:00 pm

Tuesday, October 19

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

Thursday, October 21

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

Sunday, October 24

Worship 8:00 and 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School 9:05 am
Properties Team meeting 9:00 am

Tuesday, October 26

Quilting ministry 9:00 am
Church Council meeting 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 31

Worship in-person with communion 8:00 and 10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School 9:05 am



Thinking About the Future After COVID-19

On Facebook, former Faith Lutheran pastor Justin Boeding recently had a link to an article written by a guy named Carey Nieuwhof.

Pastor Mike Zaske

Mr. Nieuwhof is well-known for his regular insights into the church and the challenges it faces in today's environment.

This month, Nieuwhof wrote a piece entitled "*3 Shocking Statistics That Show How Quickly, Radically (and Permanently?) Church Has Changed Since 2020*". I wanted to share with you what I learned.

In the article, Mr. Nieuwhof quotes a comment he has heard many times from church leaders during the pandemic: "People have always gathered [for worship] in person, and they'll gather again as soon as possible". And yet, Nieuwhof notes, the latest nationwide polls taken of church members are not backing up that statement. People are not gathering in-person at even close to pre-pandemic rates. The option of attending church virtually—online via the Internet—has increased significantly in importance to members in 2021. Here are some of the findings of the polls:

1. In-person worship attendance in 2021 is between 30-60% of what it was before the pandemic hit. This is a significant drop.
2. Amongst people 55 and younger, 4 in 10 respondents indicated that they would prefer to have a weekly choice of in-person and online worship available. Another 1 in 10 said they would only worship online. (Thus, together, over half of the people 55 and younger are saying that an online worship option is very important to them).
3. People aged 56+ (Baby Boomers) overwhelmingly prefer primarily in-person worship—71% indicated this. For people 55 and younger (Generations X, Y, and Z), only 41% primarily prefer in-person only. Thus, there is a large difference in preferences between the older and younger generations.

What are we to make of this data? Well, as we move into the post-pandemic world, there is going to be a need for congregations to provide multiple worship opportunities—both in-person AND online. Ignoring this need could severely hamper future ministry.

Mr. Nieuwhof recommends that congregations rethink the allocation of resources being spent on in-person worship gatherings versus online ministry. Most churches spend less than 10% of their time and budget on their online worship services (if they even offer them at all). To reach more people as we move forward, churches will need to invest more volunteers and dollars toward online worship.

My two cents is this: In-person worship will always be important. The need to gather physically together will never go away. But we cannot deny that our society is changing. People are not gathering in-person for worship like they used to generations ago—and this change was already happening long before the pandemic hit us. Thankfully, God has gifted us today with astounding ways to still get the good news of Jesus out to our members, one of which is the ability to provide quality online worship services. We can—and we must—give our best efforts to share the love of God with our people, whether in person or online. It's not either-or. It's both!

This article appeared in the October issue of the Dodge Center Messenger

A Lesson Learned from Crabapple Picking

In February of this year, my 2021 took an unexpected and unwelcome turn.

While out for my daily walk, I slipped on some ice and somehow managed to break my right ankle. If you've ever had a similar accident, you know how quickly it can happen—and how dramatically it impacts you for many months to come.

Thankfully, I was able to have surgery within a week to repair the fractures, and soon began the long road to recovery. My healing moved along at a slow, but steady, pace. By July, I was able to resume most activities. Thus, in early August, I (foolishly) decided I was ready to tackle a task that presents itself annually at that time of year: picking the fruit off of our crabapple tree. Recovering from a major surgery...climbing up a ladder...reaching out on my tip-toes...what could possibly go wrong???

Within a mere ten minutes, I found myself lying on the ground, writhing in pain. I remember a strong gust of wind...stretching to grasp a branch with what appeared to be a million crabapples on it...the ladder starting to sway...and then suddenly having to jump for my life! Though the fall only took maybe a tenth of a second, it seemed to last an hour. I landed hard on my heels, and immediately crumpled to the earth in a heap.

Thankfully, I did not re-break the ankle.

As I laid there rolling left and right in distress, I found that I desperately wanted to blame someone or something for what had just happened—the wind for being too gusty...the branch for being just out of my reach...the friend who lent me the ladder...my wife for not stopping me from attempting to pick crabapples in the first place... Basically, I wanted to shift accountability for my fall to anyone except the one responsible for what had occurred, namely ME!

This inability to own our failings has plagued human beings literally since the beginning. People have almost an innate propensity to shift blame away from themselves when things go awry. For example, when asked by God if he had eaten from the forbidden tree, Adam could have been a stand-up guy and accepted responsibility for what he had done. He didn't—he blamed Eve. And so this has gone on for millenia.

When we blame others, 99.9% of the time we are just adding another sin to our pile—the sin of what we did, and the sin of trying to pin it on someone innocent. It's a terrible “look”, not to mention a lousy thing to do.

Finally, trying to blame others is a denial of God's grace and forgiveness. When we've messed up, God stands ready to forgive. But when we try to push our failing onto someone else, our pride denies God a chance to change our heart and make us a better person. We pass up a golden opportunity to grow closer to the Lord. It's a huge missed moment to grow in faith.

So, in order not to make that mistake, let me say it loud and clear: The fall I took that day five weeks ago while picking crabapples was MY fault! I repent of my immediate reaction to blame anyone or anything other than me. May God have mercy on me—which I am confident, for Jesus' sake, will be so!

Mike Zaske, Interim Pastor

Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center



Confirmation Service

Sunday, October 17, 2021

1:00 pm

FAITH IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

COVID-19 has been hard on most individuals. It has closed down many of the things that we all hold dear—seeing family, worshipping together in church, going out to favorite restaurants, browsing in shops, and on and on. Faith in Action has felt the impact of the pandemic also. Many of our limited volunteer drivers chose to put volunteering on hold early on in the pandemic. At first, it didn't effect our services because most medical appointments were canceled or postponed so there was no need for transportation services. As things began opening up, appointments became available again but some drivers still weren't comfortable transporting someone in the confines of their cars. The vaccine is helping to get us back on track but there is still an urgent need for volunteers to drive seniors to appointments.

Being a volunteer for Faith in Action is a very flexible position. When clients call for transportation, our coordinator contacts volunteers with the dates and times needed. At that point, it is the volunteer's decision whether they can take the transport or not. If not, the coordinator will contact other volunteers to fill the need. In a given month, a volunteer might choose to provide transportation for seniors perhaps 1 to 4 times.

Please consider putting your “faith in action” by becoming a Faith in Action volunteer driver. On our website, fiadodgecounty.org (under forms on the menu) you will find a volunteer application to print, complete and return. If you do not have internet access, Please call 507-634-3654 for an application.



Cardboard Box City (MEA weekend)

October 21 and 22

Drop off at 6:00 pm on Thursday and pick up by 8:00 am on Friday.

This is an overnight activity.

Chaperones Needed Now!

2 male adults and 2 female adults

*must have chaperones by Oct. 3 to make this event a go.

*contact Stacy Wolf (507) 360-0967 or stacyvw@hotmail.com

Join your friends to create an overnight "home" out of cardboard. This project helps youth to experience what it is like to be homeless

Hostas Available-FREE

Anyone who wants to come and take hostas for themselves would have until the end of October to come and get them. This only applies to the hostas on the **north side**. We ask that you please leave the six plants marked with stakes (near gas meter).



in Faith Lutheran by volunteering to serve on the Church Council in 2022.

If anyone is interested in being placed on the ballot for council at the annual meeting in January, please contact a council member or the church office.



Sharon Shiek, Diana Vang and Karen Ingvaldson have been working many hours to get the new picture boards ready for viewing. Charleen Louks, Sue Anderson and Carol Ann Thompson are also part of this team. Thank you, ladies for this enjoyable addition in our Gathering Area

Can you find someone you know that was confirmed at Faith? You may be surprised at how they have changed!





| 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 | \$ 15,983 | \$ 12,907 |
| July | \$ 14,010 | \$ 3,845 | \$ 12,103 | \$ 20,936 |
| August | \$ 10,448 | \$ 5,565 | \$ 11,681 | \$ 17,085 |
| September | \$ 11,733 | \$ 7,200 | | |
| October | \$ 10,566 | \$ 9,958 | | |
| November | \$ 16,827 | \$ 9,281 | | |
| December | \$ 11,011 | \$ 10,164 | | |
| Sum: | \$ 146,889 | \$ 105,266 | \$ 95,560 | \$ 106,283 |
| Average: | \$ 12,241 | \$ 8,772 | \$ 11,945 | \$ 13,285 |

Mission Investment Funds

| | | | | |
|---|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| Five-Year Adjustable Secured Loan (<i>mortgage payments</i>) | | | | |
| 2021 Beginning Balance | \$ | 159,312.84 | | |
| Gross payments posted | \$ | (73,604.00) | | |
| Interest paid | \$ | 3,093.95 | | |
| Ending Balance 8/31/21 | \$ | 88,802.79 | \$ | 88,802.79 |
| Demand Deposit Funds (<i>funds on deposit to guarantee loan</i>) | | | | |
| 2021 Beginning Balance | \$ | 26,356.64 | | |
| Interest Earned | \$ | 108.00 | | |
| Ending Balance 8/31/21 | \$ | 26,464.64 | \$ | (26,464.64) |
| Building Dedicated Fund (<i>funds recieved not yet applied to loan</i>) | | | | |
| 2021 Beginning Balance | \$ | 22,579.76 | | |
| Income/tithing | \$ | 62,010.43 | | |
| Payments on debt | \$ | (70,892.00) | | |
| Ending Balance 8/31/21 | \$ | 13,698.19 | \$ | (13,698.19) |
| Outstanding balance with all funding applied | \$ | 48,639.96 | | |

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



October Birthdays

1. Corbin Giesler
2. Joan Henderson
4. Mitch Hallaway, Lyndon Wolf
6. Darloe Kuball, Gary Norstad, Isabella Selthun
7. Vicki Schweiger, Shirley Traff
9. Milt Kuball
10. Emma Rislov
12. Matthew Justice, Mike Kelly
13. April Dean
14. Collin Myrom, Mike Zaske
16. Max Henderson
17. Sarah Hall
18. Eric Ogren
19. Chad Thomas
20. Isaiah Selthun
21. Siri Wennes
22. Nick Axt, Shelley Franko-Ferson, Allen Starkson
23. Elaine French, Patty Utech, Jean Wicks
25. Tracie Bestor
26. Dave Matejcek, Christian Schrom
28. Sheryl Pischke
29. Robin Viker, Jacque Wolf
30. Mike Louks

October Anniversaries

3. Russ and Lynn Koehler
Travis and Jenna Shallbetter
4. Jason and Tina Kozisek
Mike and Lynn Krause
12. Roy and Kate Henderson
19. John and Jaci Gosse
Randy and Nadine Langworthy
21. Justin and Luann McMahan
23. Tim and Kristy Faber
28. Eric and Michelle Bryngelson



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.

October

Tuesday, October 19 ~ 12-3 pm

Thursday, October 21 ~ 4-7 pm

November

Tuesday, November 16 ~ 12-3 pm

Thursday, November 18 ~ 4-7 pm

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.



2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---|---|---|----------------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 6:30p AA | 2 |
| 3 8a/10a Worship with communion 9a Fellowship 9:05a Sunday School | 4 | 5 9a Wise Guys 9a Quilting 1:30p Ruth Circle | 6 9:30a WOW 5p Grades 5-8 Confirmation 7:30p 9th grade Confirmation | 7 | 8 6:30p AA | 9 |
| 10 8a/10a Worship 9a Fellowship 9:05a Sunday School | 11 | 12 9a Quilting 6:30p Education/ Youth Team mtg. 7p Deborah Circle | 13 9:30a WOW 5p Grades 5-8 Confirmation 7:30p 9th grade Confirmation | 14 | 15 6:30p AA | 16 |
| 17 8a/10a Worship 9a Fellowship 9:05a Sunday School 1p Confirmation | 18 | 19 9a Wise Guys 9a Quilting 12-3p Pantry of Faith open | 20 9:30a WOW NO confirmation | 21 Cardboard Box City 4-7p Pantry of Faith open 5:15p Faith in Action Board | 22 6:30p AA | 3 |
| 24 8a/10a Worship 9a Properties team 9a Fellowship 9:05a Sunday School | 25 | 26 9a Quilting 6p Church Council mtg. | 27 5p Grades 5-8 Confirmation | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 8a/10a Worship with communion 9a Fellowship 9:05a Sunday School | | | | | | |

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Elizabeth Hukee

Communicate with Faith

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**Faith Lutheran Church Newsletter
October 2021**



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