

the voice



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:20

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April  
2019

*The Voice of Faith is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church of Naples, Florida.*

*Please address comments and articles to: [communications@flc-naples.org](mailto:communications@flc-naples.org) The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.*

## What's so Good about Good Friday?

What is Good Friday and why do we call Good Friday “good” when it is such a dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus?

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most important weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus to be the turning point for all creation.

At Faith Lutheran, on Good Friday, we gather together in worship either at 12Noon or at 6:30pm. It is during this time, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (John 1:10) It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead. His life shows victory over sin and death.

I had a hard time explaining this to my children while they were growing up in the Philippines. There they have actual

crucifixions which mixes Roman Catholic devotion with Filipino folk beliefs on sacrifices and miracles.

We saw devotees being beaten by children, carrying crosses, and undergoing the re-enactment of being crucified in the belief that extreme pain is a way to atone for sins, attain miracle cures, or bring good luck for the year. To our eyes seeing actual crucifixions was not good.

I remember my German grandparents calling the day “Karfreitag” or “Sorrowful Friday” and my English grandparents calling the day “God’s Friday”.

Regardless of any culture, Good Friday is entirely appropriate because of the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God’s plan to save His people from their sins.

Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. When Jesus said “It is Finished!” the world changed. That’s why Good Friday is so dark and so Good.

Pastor Don Treglown

## The Resurrection

Is the resurrection of Jesus Christ real? Is Christ’s resurrection relevant? If we are brutally honest with ourselves, at some point we really do ask these specific questions as followers of Jesus. Maybe you personally have been thinking on these just the other day. Is the resurrection real? If so, what does that mean for me? For God’s Word does not hold that the resurrection is just a nice idea, nor is it simply a beautiful metaphor that is meant to tide us over when facing hard times. It is so much more. It’s the God-given truth. It is a historical event. Where is it written down?

In the book of Acts, which is a historical account of the beginning of the Church, Luke writes: “*He (Jesus) presented Himself alive to them after His suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the Kingdom of God*” (Acts 1:3). In Paul’s letter to the Corinthian Church, which dates back to only a mere 7-10 years after the resurrection, he records: “*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).*” These are accounts that simply make known what actually happened. And it is in their witnessing all of us are brought to Jesus the living God. This Jesus Christ, Who is not dead but risen and alive.

Adding to this fact, there are no other valid historical accounts from this time in existence that confirms any different explanation. God’s Word aside, if it were a big made up lie and the first generation of new believers were in cahoots about it, why would they so willingly die for it? The vast majority of Christ’s first followers were martyred for believing in His resurrection. They were given opportunities to recant in order to spare their own lives, but they were adamant to their own death that Christ rose from the dead. It doesn’t matter how good of a liar you are, no one so freely and willingly dies for something they think is made up. **The Church did not create the resurrection; the resurrection created the Church.** But I’m not here to try and “prove” anything. I’m simply here to tell you how it is: Christ is risen. It happened. Don’t take my word for it; take God’s own Word for it. And now here’s why this true resurrection matters (relevance)...

Everything that Jesus said and did throughout His earthly life was shown to be true when He went to the cross, died, was buried, descended into Hell, and on the third day resurrected. This truth matters for everyone because in our time there is great apathy towards the truth. A lot people could give a rip if the Christ’s resurrection is true, “So what? What does it matter if it is? This has nothing to do with me.” But in fact, the entire world is held together solely in the person and work of our *risen* Lord. You get rid of Jesus’s resurrection, we lose the very personal and permanent connection we have with God. It matters indeed. Here’s why...

There will be a day (it's never a matter of "if" but when and how) in which each and every single person who's ever lived will stand before God and have to give account for all the sins he / she thought and desire he / she acted upon (2 Corinthians 5:10 ; Romans 14:12). None of us get an automatic pass. These sins, which cut us off / separate us from our good and perfect God condemn us to suffer eternal death. Scary and troublesome? Absolutely. I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't myself. For God alone is the perfect and righteous judge; outside of and without the Son of God, all of us stand guilty before Him in our sins. "If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" (Psalm 130:3). All of us fall short, no one is righteous (see Romans 3:9-18). We can never measure up to the perfect, holy God. But in His mercy, God sent His Son to fully absorb the penalty of our sins with His perfect sacrifice for them on the cross, "But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared" (Psalm 130:4).

Christ killed off the eternal death sentence we deserve by His undeserved death so that we would no longer have to fear or face it. Whoever believes in Jesus, God's righteous judgement has already passed; all of it was placed on His Son. But without the resurrection, that payment means nothing. We are saved by our Lord's death and resurrection. St. Paul writes in Romans 6:8-11, "*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*" Consider and take it to heart dear friends, our sins are dead and we have died with our Lord in His crucifixion. It's a done deal. But more gloriously, we are now made new and alive to God in the risen Lord Jesus. What incredible peace and hope!

The empty tomb promises us that our sins are forgiven. The resurrection promises that there is physical life after death (see Acts and 1 Corinthians quotes above). There is a new hope after the payment has been made. It assures us that Christ's sacrifice is perfectly and permanently pleasing to satisfy God's righteous wrath on sin. **Because Jesus rose from the dead we are able to stand before the Almighty God. We are able to stand before Him because His Son Jesus is standing with us as our risen Savior.** <sup>31</sup> *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us" (Romans 8:31-34). We are the Father's forgiven children who are permanently claimed in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. **Because Christ is risen, we are able to live a life that does not end in a question mark.** Will I be ok? Yes. In fact, more than ok. You will be raised to new*

life. That's a promise. And God never goes back on His promises (see John 11:25-26, Philippians 3:20-21).

A dead Jesus would be ideal for sin and the world. If Christ remained in the grave, memorials could've been set up, stories in folktale fashion could've been shared, and then we could all just leave it at that...a sanitized version of what our Lord tried to do, but failed. He would simply be a mere famous figure in history like the rest to simply remember once a year and maybe cause schools to be closed for the day. If Jesus truly stayed dead it would've meant that we can just simply live the way we want / prefer to live for ourselves. But since Jesus is not dead but risen, everything has changed...for the better of the entire creation.

The resurrection makes fully known that God does not delight in death nor is it (death) ever to be desired from us. Death is certainly not part of God's plan. Nor will it ever be, which is why Christ promises to return one final day and completely do away with it and it's accomplice: sin (Revelation 21). That is what we all have to look forward to, this promised final victory in our Risen Lord Jesus. So while we wait for His Second Coming, we hold and keep each other in this life we share together in Christ... "*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:23-25). We don't simply live the way we want to any more. We put away all selfish ambition and let our very lifestyles reflect the reality that it is Christ Who is ever with us not as a holy taskmaster but as our living Lord. **His resurrection is now the norm.***

So we live in light of the way Christ has shown us in His sacrificial, resurrected Love. So our love must be genuine. We hold on tight to what is good; we regard with utmost disgust what is evil and keep each other from being either perpetrators or victims of it. We weep when others weep; we rejoice when others rejoice (see Romans 12 on all of this). Acting this way for others will always matter and be pertinent. God's Love for the world will always be relevant; it never fails in time, space, history, nor for any single person. God's Love succeeds over all for He is alive and quite in control of everything: Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor Sam Maconachy



Gloria Cahill	2	Madeline Barbour	14	Scott Keller	22
Howard Hoffman	2	Lois Opel	15	Paris Wells	22
Jessica McMillen	2	Kathy Chaney	16	Janet Guenther	23
Jordan Hawkesworth	3	Vivienne Converso	16	Shirley Neumann	23
Ruth Ripley	3	Neal Tittle	17	Elmer Schrader	24
Gina Hahn	5	Dean Wolfe	17	Dottie Schwab	24
Brian Tate	5	Mary Beth Born	18	Helen Balderson	25
William Wuerger	5	Ryan Ferguson	18	Carol Tate	25
Anne Weil	6	W James	18	Roy Couch	26
Jim West	7	Judy McDermott	18	William Marceau	26
Michelle Schmitt	8	Danny Youmans	18	Ray Wiese	26
Clint Sherwood	9	Neal Berryhill	19	Judy Wendling	27
Marcus Kelso	11	Donna Jean Christy	20	Nic Treglown	28
Colton Sherwood	11	Roy Stearns	20	Hailey Kern	29
Lynnette Hallberg	12	Danielle Smith	21	Baerbel Munson	29
Kody Kern	13	Lilly Ackerman	22	Arlyn Rose	30

Jim & Loree Widmann	1
Paul & Jan Rauch	3
Brian & Nancy Revell	12
Myron Brundage & Marischen Nordmeyer-Brundage	16
Gary & Susan Eisinger	18
Mike & Sandi Werner	28
Brad & Barbara Hildebrandt	29



## Easter Breakfast

Women of Faith will once again host Faith's annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 21st, from 9:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex now and plan to bring your favorite Easter dish to share! A Love Offering will be collected to help needy children in the Collier County School System. If you are willing to help, many volunteers are needed to help with set-up on Saturday as well as serve and clean up on Sunday. Questions may be directed to Joann Johnson at 239-287-1101 or [starbrite08@gmail.com](mailto:starbrite08@gmail.com) or Jan Nurenberg at 239-877-4731 or [janisnurenberg@comcast.net](mailto:janisnurenberg@comcast.net).

## Confirmation

Reminder - Palm Sunday is also confirmation Sunday! If you would like to support our Confirmands in this step of their journey with Christ, please make plans to join us for the 11 a.m. service!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><b>1</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft (DR) 6:30 p.m. - German Club Meeting (DR)</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Band</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (DR) 11:00 - 2:00 Itchin' to Stitch <b>Midweek Lenten Service 4</b> <b>5:30 p.m. - Meal Served by the OSL (FH)</b> <b>6:30 p.m. - Worship (S)</b> After Service - Bells (MR)</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:45 a.m. - LOF Chapel (S) 1:30 p.m. - Band Practice (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Choir (MR) 7:00 p.m. - Young Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:30 a.m. - LOF Chapel (S) 10:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Study (DR) 10:00 a.m. - Marine Gift Bag Assembly (FH)</p>	<p><b>6</b> 5:00 p.m.- Saturday Service /Communion (S)</p>
<p><b>7 Lent 5</b> <i>8:00 a.m. -Worship (Comm)</i> 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship (CY) <i>9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship (Comm)</i> 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (FH) 10:10 a.m. - Sunday School <i>11:00 a.m. - Worship (Comm)</i> 4:45 p.m. - High School (YA) 5:45 p.m. - Confirmation (YA)</p>	<p><b>8</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft (DR) 10:00 - Board of Property Meeting (YEA) 3:00 p.m. - Worship, Music &amp; Arts (YA)</p>	<p><b>9</b> 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 5:00 p.m. - WOF Meeting (DR) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Band</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (DR) <b>Midweek Lenten Service 5</b> <b>5:30 p.m. - Meal Served by Staff &amp; Pastors (FH)</b> <b>6:30 p.m. - Worship (S)</b> After Service - Bell Choir</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:45 a.m. - LOF Chapel (S) 1:30 p.m. - Band Practice (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Choir (MR)</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:30 a.m. - LOF Chapel (S) 10:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Study (DR) 5:00 p.m. - German Club Dance (FH) Hours 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:00 a.m. - Young Marines (FH, DR) 5:00 p.m.- Saturday Service /Communion (S)</p>
<p><b>14 Palm Sunday</b> <i>8:00 a.m. -Worship (S)</i> 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship <i>9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship (S)</i> 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (FH) 10:10 a.m - Sunday School <i>11:00 a.m. - Worship / Comm. Confirmation</i> After 11:00 service - Celebration of Confirmation (FH)</p>	<p><b>15</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft (DR) <i>Voice Deadline</i></p>	<p><b>16</b> 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Band</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (DR) 9:30 a.m. - LOF Easter Program (S, FH) 11:00 - 2:00 Itchin' to Stitch 6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir(CL)</p>	<p><b>18 Maundy Thursday</b> <b>12:00 noon - Service/ Comm. (S)</b> <b>6:30 p.m. - Service / Comm (S)</b> LOF Closed Hours - 8:30 - noon</p>	<p><b>19 Good Friday</b> <b>12:00 noon - Service (S)</b> <b>6:30 Service (S)</b> LOF Closed Church Office Hours 8:30 - Noon</p>	<p><b>20 Holy Saturday</b> 9:30 a.m. - OSL Meeting (DR) <b>5:00 p.m. - Service/ No Comm. (S)</b> Brunch Setup (FH)</p>
<p><b>21 Easter Sunday</b> <i>6:30 a.m. - Praise/Comm.</i> <i>8:30 a.m. - Worship /Comm.</i> 9:00 a.m. - Easter Brunch (FH) 9:30 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt <i>10:30 a.m. - Worship/ Comm.</i></p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Easter Monday</b> <b>LOF and Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Band</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study (DR) 5:00 p.m. - Marine Officers (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir(CL) 6:30 p.m. - Serenity (DR)</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9:45 a.m. - LOF Chapel (S) 1:30 p.m. - Band Practice (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Choir (MR)</p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. - LOF Chapel 10:00 a.m. - Ladies Bible Study (DR) 11:30 a.m.- 55+ Potluck with Movie (FH) Hours 8:30 - 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 a.m. - Young Marines (FH, DR) 5:00 p.m.- Saturday Service /Communion (S)</p>
<p><b>28 Easter 2</b> <i>8:00 a.m. -Worship (S)</i> 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship <i>9:15 a.m. - Praise Worship (S)</i> 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study (FH) 10:10 a.m. -Sunday School <i>11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)</i></p>	<p><b>29</b> 9:30-2:00 p.m. - Cravin' to Craft</p>	<p><b>30</b> 9:45 a.m. - Bible Study (DR) 11:00 a.m. - Marine Lunch (FH) 6:30 p.m. - Praise Band</p>				

# REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

**LCMS YOUTH GATHERING** | Minneapolis · July 11-15, 2019

## April Mission of the Month: 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering

Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The Gathering will be held on **July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN.**

During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God’s Word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the Synod. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, MO.

Youth will meet thousands of friends from across the world at the LCMS Youth Gathering. From the early morning hours to late evenings, Gathering emcees and Morning Session leaders will guide everyone through the LCMS Youth Gathering. These leaders will help unpack the theme, **Real. Present. God.** (based on Psalm 46), and walk alongside participants as they learn to apply the Psalms to their everyday life.

13 of our High Schoolers from Faith will be attending this life shaping event along with 6 adult leaders. Praise God! We will be leaving on July 10 and returning home July 16. Continue to keep us in your daily prayers. Thank you for your continual outpouring of love, support, and joy for everyone that will be attending the National Youth Gathering! May the Lord be with us all as He continues to build this community of blessed believers in and with Him.



### Holy Week

Maundy Thursday    Noon & 6:30 PM  
 Good Friday        Noon & 6:30 PM  
 Holy Saturday      5 PM

### Easter Morning

6:30 AM        Sunrise Service with the Praise Team  
 8:30 AM        Traditional Service with Choir and Bells  
 10:30 AM      Traditional Service with Choir and Bells  
 9 - 10:30 AM   Easter Brunch  
 9:30 AM        Easter Egg Hunt

## Hello brothers and sisters in Christ.

I thank you for your vote of confidence and allowing me to be elected President of the Congregation of Faith Lutheran for the 2019-2020 term. I promise to do the job to the best of my ability and to uphold the purpose, mission, and confessional standards of our Church as outlined in our constitution. Jim McKay left some big shoes to fill, and he has done so much for our Church since its inception and even before. I am fortunate to have him for consultation as we move forward. Past work in other churches included this position and others, so I said when we came to Faith Lutheran, I would not get involved in church politics. As we all know as Christians, it is God's will that rules, not ours. So I am grateful and happy to be of service.

One of many reasons I am excited about serving again is due to our pastoral team. I have been involved with several churches, but never one that has a team like we have here. God is blessing us with three diverse Pastors, each with unique and complementing strengths. It is a joy to watch them work together. We also have a strong Church Council, made up of experience and wisdom of the past, as well as fresh new views of what can be in the future. It's an honor to be working with these folks. We are also blessed with a congregation of caring people...people who serve every day but unless you are looking, you may not see it. They are doing it because they care and because they know it makes a difference. God bless them all.

Some changes are coming for Faith Lutheran as we move through 3 year, 5 year, and 10 year planning. I am glad to be a part of that and I am glad you are too. If I can be of any help in ways unknown, please feel free to contact me.

***Lord, thank You for the wonderful blessing of this congregation, our Pastors, and all the work that keeps Faith Lutheran Church a place anyone can come to hear and share Your gospel and receive the grace, mercy, and love You have for all Your children. In Jesus' name we give these thanks. Amen.***

Ron Mitchell  
Congregation President  
Faith Lutheran Church

## VBS at Faith, June 10 – 14

God's Miraculous Mission : Jesus Save the World!

Online registration for campers and volunteers starts Monday, April 8.

VBS is right around the corner! Praise God! As we get ready to welcome and share the Good News of Jesus with all the kids and their families, there are many things all of us can do together here at Faith.

- Pray
  - Pray for all the VBSers and volunteers, that God is praised and works in our hearts.
- Volunteer
  - There are numerous opportunities to be a part of this joyful week: greeter, snacks preparer, guide, station helper, story teller, and more! [Sign-up online](#) or contact Pastor Sam.
- Donate
  - Each year we set up a donation table to help provide craft and snack items for the week of VBS. Here is what we are in need of for this year's VBS
    - Snacks:
    - Crafts:

Thank you for being a part of this community of faith and for all your help in making this event a blessed one every summer! God bless you.





# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida



Faith Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We strive to be a friendly, family oriented church united under the goal of enriching our community through the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday:

5:00 p.m.                      Traditional

Sunday:

8:00 a.m.                      Traditional

9:15 a.m.                      Contemporary

11:00 a.m.                      Traditional

Holy Communion will be served every Saturday and the first and third Sundays of every month



FAITH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Naples, Florida

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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