

the voice



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida

Worship with us by Live-streaming
Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.
to access go to:
www.facebook.com/flcnaples

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.”

Romans 15:13

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May
2020

The Voice of Faith is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church of Naples, Florida. Please address comments and articles to: jrobertson@flcnaples.com. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

The Shepherds Voice

When I preached on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, we had 6 people present in the sanctuary:

1. Soloist Becky Dickerson
2. Audio/Visual Technicians: Jeremy Robertson & Dominic Treglown
3. Organist: Paul Leighton
4. Trumpet: Pastor Sam Maconachy
5. Liturgist: Pastor Brad Hildebrandt

I am grateful that Faith Lutheran Church has suspended public worship services for the foreseeable future in response to the coronavirus outbreak. This will hopefully slow the spread of the virus and contribute to the well-being of the members of our community most vulnerable to Covid-19. I know this in my head, but my heart was missing you.

It was such a hard lesson for me this Easter. But then I was reminded that on that first Easter there were just the women at the tomb, Mary Magdalene, and Peter. Not much more than the 6 people we had at Faith.

But then, the acts of Love took place. Christ presented Himself to the vulnerable. Thank you for making it possible for me to leave meals, groceries, Easter baskets on doorsteps, helping financially with First Responders, unemployed workers, Lambs of Faith and our Church staff, check-ins with isolated friends and members of Faith Lutheran. Our preschool director Karen Graham has helped out homeschooling parents along with her teachers and staff. In Christ's name, we can all do something, for someone, in this time.

Most important, we should pray. I make it a habit to pray for the following:

1. Those affected by this virus and their healing
2. Medical professionals and First Responders on the front lines
3. Medical researchers working to create a vaccine
4. Leaders in office as they guide us through this time
5. That Faith Lutheran Church would respond with thoughtfulness, wisdom, and love
6. Continued sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
7. YOU

May God keep us all safe in these difficult times.

Pastor Don Treglown

God's blessings to each of you. Let me begin with the words from Psalm 46:1-3 and 7.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. The Lord God almighty is with us, the Lord of Jacob is our refuge."

God is with us each day as we work our way through the pandemic. I thought it would be helpful if I presented to you some information as we manage our congregation's affairs through this current disruption.

In March a budget was prepared for this fiscal year and presented to the council. The council approved the budget and it was going to be presented to the congregation at the end of March. Unfortunately, we could not hold that meeting because of present conditions.

Obviously, we must review and adjust the budget as we will not be incurring some expenses as we are not using our facilities for gatherings or for Lambs of Faith. Still it will require a close watch between now and the end of August.

We were fortunate to have invested in new cameras and audio equipment which has allowed us to live stream services and some Bible classes.

We have two projects underway that have been funded by specific donations. The Gazebo for the Memorial Garden, which has arrived and is currently being installed and the septic to sewer project for which we have paid engineering and permit fees and will start as soon as final permits are received. WE plan to hold off any non-essential projects and ask the boards cooperation.

Our ministry and support staff is fully engaged so that we can continue to serve the congregation.

I ask you to pray for our congregation, our support staff and each other and to continue your support of your congregation.

In Christ

Pastor Brad Hildebrandt

A Most Significant Day

One of the more impactful moments in my faith came by way of a unassuming, passing conversation with a member of the congregation where I was the Vicar in 2015. It was late May, when the Easter Sunday spiritual high of the Church was at the usual expected plateau which happens every year in every congregation after several weeks of Eastertide. This also meant that it was now time for Pentecost. Another “churchy” moment when we recognize this date to be a big deal for us, or at least we try to act like it should be...after all, it *is* when God the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus’ disciples after He ascended into heaven.

It was a Pentecost Sunday just like this when I was vicaring, getting ready for the last service, greeting people into the worship space that this member walked up with a joyous smile shook my hand (pre-Coronavirus times for sure) and exclaimed: “This is my favorite Church day!” Hardly a remark I was expecting, and I thought not too much of it as I then replied with a reflexive smile: “Indeed!” I then hurried into the worship hall to begin the service. The liturgy started and carried along with the usual readings appointed every year for Pentecost, the music was uplifting, the sermon “ok” (I preached the sermon), sins were forgiven, the Lord’s Supper was shared, the peace of Jesus was given. Thanks be to God. But all throughout I kept replaying the individual’s remark, thinking over and over: “Why is Pentecost this man’s favorite day in the Church? Why should it be? Should it be mine? Why isn’t it mine like his?”

After the Benediction I made it a point to catch this beloved child of God before he left. Upon successfully finding him, I asked: “I was thinking about what you said before we began worship; why is Pentecost *your* favorite day?” It was almost as if he was expecting this from me. His immediate and sincere reply: “Because Easter means nothing to me without it.” I was taken aback by this as maybe you are now. “Umm, what?!” I said out of shock. As if waiting to drop the other shoe, “You see, I can never believe what I believe without Pentecost happening. I can never be saved without the Holy Spirit. I can never do what God wants me to do if Pentecost didn’t occur. Easter would mean nothing to me if Pentecost never happened.” That shoe certainly dropped right on my hard-hearted faith...“Easter would mean nothing to me if Pentecost never happened.” What a holy scandalous statement to destroy my sinful pride, thank you Lord Jesus.

“I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.” Apostles’ Creed, 3rd Article

What does this mean? I believe **that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him**; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

If Easter Sunday is everything, Pentecost is everything *and more*. It is the fulfillment of Christ’s promise to us His disciples (John 14, Acts 1:1-10). Dear friends, your saving faith in Christ’s Death and Resurrection is purely and powerfully a 100% gift from God. I’m thankful to say that you played no part in receiving it. God gave it to you. It is the very means by which the Lord God powerfully works in you to hold on to His everlasting promises of mercy, grace, forgiveness, and salvation. Your faith does not come from you (Ephesians 2:8-9). Thank God for that, I certainly do.

Yes of course, we all are an Easter people...but wait, there’s more! We are God’s people, made real and certain to us on Pentecost. We are filled with the very Holy Spirit, Who in our baptism has “called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith” (see Luther above). Christmas can still be a most cherished day for you. Reformation can remain a most affirming day for you. Easter can always be a most joyful day for you. But Pentecost will consistently be a most significant day for all of us.

Thank You Holy Spirit for fulfilling the promise of Jesus in coming to us and giving us the very faith to live, thrive, and love as Your people.

In Faith together,
Pastor Sam



Quinten Grier	2	Taylor Di Sarro	12	Favio Zeballos	20
Ethan Hawkesworth	2	Linda Surber	12	Jim Baase	21
Richard Leighton	2	Sharon Badke	13	Roland Beaudet	21
Doris West	2	Craig Hazelett	13	Agnes Hazen	24
Pat Wiese	2	Matthew Di Sarro	15	Louise Lunski	24
John Dahlke	6	Gary Ligman	16	Marian Moden	26
Tom Kern	6	Noah Outerbridge	16	Kevin Arsenaault	27
Susan Bremseth	8	Ruth Andrea	17	Christiane Donnelly	29
Brian Wells	8	Evelyn Gaugert	18	Ruth Koenemann	29
Ricki Bond	9	Susan Taylor	18	Kenny Allred	30
Cora Jo Maconachy	9	Randy McClendon	20	Joyce Behnke	30
Liz Orsay	9	Barb Puch	20		
Shawn Beres	10	Mary Beth Rowley	20		

Jim & Lorraine McKay	3
Zach & Kirsten Chernoch	10
James & Marilyn Miller	11
Paul & Sharon Geffert	18
Bernie & Annette Higgins	19
Clint & Amanda Sherwood	22
Raymond & Bonnie Stolarczyk	22
Bill & Kathy Miller	23
Ray & Terri Schepperly	24
Julie & Favio Zeballos	26
Roger & Julie Best	26
Craig & Dodie Pajer	27



VBS 2020

After fervent prayer and keeping tabs within our community, it is out of loving caution that we will not be having VBS this summer. Though sad this decision had to be made, we are hopeful for its bigger and better return next year; thanks be to God! Thank you Faith community for your prayers, concern, and support.

Updating Email Addresses

Dear Faith family,

The COVID-19 pandemic and the closing of the church has reminded me that it is not the church building that is important but the people in it. If we can't reach out and physically touch each other, we need to be able to reach out electronically. To do this we need an accurate list of email addresses, which is why I am asking you to please help me by sending a test email to me at Faith@FLCNaples.com.

Thank you and may God bless you,
Patti Angliss, Administrative Assistant

Faith Lutheran Church

 **MAY 2020** 

434-5811

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>As of the printing of the May Voice, the Church is still closed. We hope to resume worship services in the Sanctuary as soon as possible, where we will operate under moderate physical distancing protocols. (White House Plan- Opening up America Again)</p>					<p>1 Recorded Devotion Study on Faith, Hope & Love.</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Easter 4 Mite Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Worship Service – Livestreamed on facebook (S)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Recorded Bible study on Ephesians</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Recorded Devotional Study on Faith, Hope & Love.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Easter 5 10:00 a.m. –Worship Service – Livestreamed on facebook (S)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Recorded Bible study on Ephesians</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Recorded Devotional Study on Faith, Hope & Love.</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Easter 6 10:00 a.m. –Worship Service – Livestreamed on facebook (S)</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Recorded Bible study on Ephesians</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Ascension of our Lord</p>	<p>22 Recorded Devotional Study on Faith, Hope & Love.</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Ascension Sunday 10:00 a.m. –Worship Service – Livestreamed on facebook (S)</p> <hr/> <p>31 Pentecost 10:00 a.m. –Worship Service – Livestreamed on facebook (S)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Recorded Bible study on Ephesians</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Recorded Devotional Study on Faith, Hope & Love.</p>	<p>30</p>

We are the Church

Dear Faith Lutheran Church family;

Recently, I watched two webinars featuring some Lutheran ministers and others discussing the issues related to running a Church during this current pandemic crisis.

The first webinar, **Covid-19 and Church Finances**, was interesting and offered ideas and resources that were primarily aimed at churches with financial constraints. We at FLC are blessed to be mortgage free and in relatively good shape, financially. Of course that could change with time and continued shut down, but for now we are good.

The second webinar, **Spiritual Care in a Time of Social Distancing**, addressed relationships among congregations, staff, and church workers while being separated physically. I found this one particularly interesting because it verified we are doing the things we need to be doing. Listening to four ministers from various sized churches discuss what activities they are doing, tells me we are managing our situation appropriately. This is new territory for everyone, and there were no plans in place for managing it. Shutting down the church building was bad enough, but it had to include Holy week too! Fortunately, praise God, FLC had invested in enough technology for us to carry on with worship services, Bible studies, and devotions using our website, video streaming, and email blasts. Yes, it was a little shaky at first, and satan attempted to throw glitches into it. However, with the power of Jesus, our Pastors and staff overcame, and now we are able to provide a large part of our congregation, both local and distant, with the ability to watch services, studies, and devotions, both live and later, if desired. In addition, several groups of FLC leaders and workers are using audio and video technology to continue working together in virtual meetings.

We are also blessed at FLC to have some recently developed non-technology resources that are being extremely helpful in this world-wide crisis. A couple years back, a new Church Council was structured which includes a **Board of Member Care**. The members of that Board, along with the **Board of Elders**, have been making personal phone calls to every member for which we have information. The **Human Care Committee** has been sending personal notes through the regular mail to members. These things are so important for our Church family to see and know they are being thought of and prayed for, even though we cannot fellowship together physically. This is especially important to those who, for whatever reasons, cannot participate in the technology outreach. Another relatively recent addition is **the Order of St. Luke Healing Prayer Team**. Since they cannot meet with members in the sanctuary at the end of each service, they reached out with regular mail to every member, advising them of options for prayer, with individual prayer team names and phone numbers, and including the FLC Prayer Line....and praise God, they are seeing results. Bless our **Pastors**, as they continue to reach out to those with special needs, and work to deliver the Word of God to all of us, even though the pews are empty.

I am writing this in mid-April as we are still under “safer at home” mandates, and praying like everyone else that by the time it is published, we will be moving on a track back to normalcy. If we are not, it’s refreshing to know that God is always present and to know that our Church is not just a building, **it is all of us**, as we continue our worship in different ways.

Thank you for your prayers and for your continued support.

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Ron Mitchell - Congregation President

Lambs of Faith

Our Preschool has been closed since the beginning of March, because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The teachers are communicating online with our families by reading stories and doing projects together. We appreciate their willingness and dedication to the children.

We are following the attendance schedule of Collier County Public School System. When they go back to school then Lambs of Faith will reopen, also. We hope it will be in May, but there is a good chance that school is over for this year because of the Pandemic.

Your prayers are always welcome for our teachers and our children.

Submitted by Karen Frank

Online Giving

Did you know that Faith Lutheran has online giving? In the footer of every page of our website, www.flcnaples.com, you will see a button that says "Giving". By simply clicking that button you will be taken to a secure form to give to the church, including options for various funds and projects such as Mission of the Month. If you need help or want other options in ways to worship God with your tithe, please contact me.

Barbara James Director of Stewardship and Finance. BarbaraJamesEmail@gmail.com
239-776-0601



FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida



Amazon shoppers can now shop using AmazonSmile and support Lambs of Faith preschool. "AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice." Faith Lutheran Church Naples FL is now set-up as a charitable organization on AmazonSmile. There is no cost to you for shopping on AmazonSmile.

Amazon Smile Set-up Instructions

1. Step 1: In your internet browser go to smile.amazon.com and log in using your Amazon credentials.
2. Step 2: After signing in, you will be directed to pick a charitable organization.
3. Step 3: Under the heading "Or pick your own charitable organization" enter "Faith Lutheran Church Naples FL" then click "Search"
4. Each time you shop be sure that you use the AmazonSmile website and then shop, shop, shop!!!

Thank you for your support of Lambs of Faith Preschool.

For questions contact Barbara James –
barbarajamesemail@gmail.com

Dear FLC Naples Family:

We are still unable to assemble a meeting to approve the 2020-2021 budget, and to elect Council positions, both of which should have been effective April 1, 2020. The FLC Council previously approved the budget, and I am now asking the Executive Committee to ratify both the budget and the elections for a period of 5 months, April through July, so we can continue running the business of the Church accordingly. Hopefully, we will be in a position by then to have a regular voters meeting, and take any additional action deemed appropriate. Thank you for continuing to support your Church.

Ron Mitchell Congregation President



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.

Faith Lutheran Church
4150 Goodlette Rd
Naples, FL 34103
(239) 434-5811

faithnaples@flc-naples.org
www.flcnaples.com

Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday:

5:00 p.m. Traditional

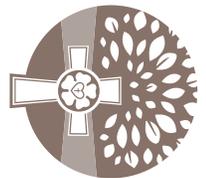
Sunday:

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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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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