

Happy Birthday Wishes!

APRIL: 23—Pat Parisot, 29—Inez Miller

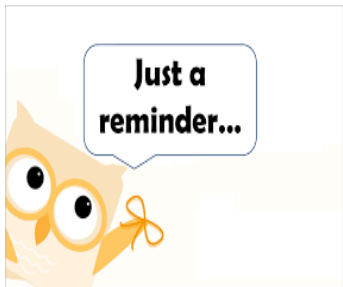
MAY: 1—Sandy Dittmer & Rebecca Naff, 4—Michael Stinson, 7—Rob Binder, 8—Albert Schnurr, 9—Betty Comins, 11—Tyler McCormick, 15—Helen Meier & Roger Frey, 21—Dorothy Taylor, 22—Diane Lipinski & Kennadi Rice-Devlin, 24—Laura Hill, 26—Donald Schlegel, 27—Grady Naff, 31—Kelli Hedrington



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We pray for the homeless, those unemployed and those with mental struggles, our shut-ins, our college students, military families & all who are serving in the military. We pray for our friends, our families & our loved ones: Alyson & Jarrett, Alyssa, Barry & Shelby, Angie, Audrey, Barb, Beth, Boyd & Inez, Brad,

Brynn & Ellis McGuire, Carl & Cheryl, Cazmyre, Cindy, Claudine, Dani, Diane, Dick, Don, Donna, Doug, Emily, Florence, Gary, Gavin, George, Harriet, Heidi, Julie, June, Kayla, Kevin, Ian, Jackie, Jamie, Janice, Juliet, Kelli, Kenny, Larry, Linda, Lori, Margot, Melissa, Meri, Mike, Mrs. Horvath, Mrs. Straub, Nancy, Pat, Patricia Sarabia, Payton, Rich, Ricky, Robin, Ryan, Sam, Sara, Sarah, Shalom, Sue, Tammy, Tina, Tom, Tracy, Tristan, Vance, Vivian & family, Wayne, and Zak.



Please sign up today for Fellowship, to be a Reader, Usher, or Greeter.
WHOO YOU? Yes - YOU make this church GREAT!



We'd like to recognize Doug Congdon who serves as our Head Usher and as our Church Council Treasurer. His many countless volunteer hours and many years of devoted service are very much appreciated!



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ 9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who calls us beloved children, who gathers us into one flock, who guides us into all truth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins, trusting that God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *(A brief silence.)* Faithful and just God,

C: we confess that we are captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you have first loved us. Forgive us, God of mercy. Let your Holy Spirit work in us to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the abundant life given in Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

P: In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent the Son to atone for our sins. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven. Let the perfect love of God cast out fear, fill you with joy, and inspire you to live for others.

C: Amen.



OPENING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

C: Amen.

You're invited

*Add these events to your calendar
More information will be coming*



**Saturday, June 30
Car Cruise-In - 10am-2pm**



**Saturday, July 14 - Noon-3pm
Community Ice Cream Social**



**Saturday, November 17 - 10am-3pm
Craft Show & Bake Sale \$25 Booth
Inside at Didier Hall, South Beloit;
Crafters Wanted - call 815-389-1824**



**Church Potluck
Sunday, November 11 - 11:30-1pm
Following All Church Meeting**

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Next Sunday, April 29th
Noisy Can Collection for the
Beloit Domestic Violence
Survivor Center**



**Gifts for Mission
Generosity Sunday**

**SUNDAY, May 20
Generosity Sunday
Money collected will help our
Northern IL Synod partner
with the ELCA to provide ministry grants for
new & redeveloping congregations. This is
how our own church, Faith Lutheran, was
helped in our time of financial need. We ask
you to be generous to help others in need.**

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

We are happy to have you worship with us today! Join us for beverages, snacks and conversation after worship.

Communion is by intinction. Come forward to receive the bread with an open hand then dip in the wine (dark) or juice (light). Gluten-free wafers are available - indicate to Pastor when it's your turn. If you eat the bread before dipping or drop it, please ask for another piece. You don't have to be a member of Faith or be Lutheran to take Communion. Christ is the host of the meal ~ all baptized believers are welcome.

Offering ~ As always, if you are unable to attend worship, please make sure to catch up with your **offering** next week. Or mail it to the church office and write "offering" on the envelope to be included in that week's offering, seen only by the designated counters. Thanks for being so faithful in giving generously to God's work at Faith Lutheran.

Financials Sunday, April 15 - Week #15

Attendance - 56

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Actual Offering | \$1,449.00 |
| Weekly Offering Budget | \$2,176.00 |
| 2017 YTD Actual Offering | \$35,951.39 |
| 2017 YTD Offering Needed | \$32,640.00 |

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar Guild - Carol & Roger Frey

Computer Technician - Mike Banker

Offering Video - Helen Meier

Reader - Marcy Reedy

Counters - Roger & Carol Frey

Fellowship - Inez and Boyd Miller

Greeters - Tammy Dunkel and Tina Hatch

Musician - Betty Comins

Ushers - Doug Congdon & Ray Wendell

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Richard J. Meier



This week's altar flowers are donated by Gail & Dennis Kelce, in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*) O Lord Christ,

C: **Good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

A reading from Acts, the 4th chapter.

The next day the rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 23

P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

P: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right paths for your name's sake.

C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

A reading from 1st John, the 3rd chapter.

We know love by this, that Jesus Christ laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God Be with You Till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace; Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.



OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, in thee.*

*May we thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us, to thee our first-fruits give.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

~ COMMUNION ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away - and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

"I'm Hearing Voices! Are You?"

Hymn of the Day The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the witness of the church, the wholeness of creation, and all who are in need. *(A brief silence.)* Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for church custodians, office managers, Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, baptismal sponsors, deacons, pastors, youth workers, and bishops. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Restore natural environments damaged by our hands. We pray for river valleys and grassy plains, coral reefs and arctic ice, mountains, deserts, and marshlands. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Nourish us with the testimony of all the disciples who have gone before us. We give thanks for the faithful departed and their witness in every age. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

Psalm 23