FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
1305 Blackhawk Boulevard
South Beloit, IL 61080
Faithfully growing, welcoming and caring through Christ.

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MARCH, 2019

THE FAITHFUL NEWS

Faith Lutheran Church

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From the Desk of Pastor Rick ~

2019 Lenten Program to Encourage Faith Journey

Every year our Lutheran churches offer a special season of mid-week services during the Lenten season, which leads up to the celebration of Easter. The season begins with Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded of our mortality, and that we are utterly dependent on the mercy of God for our salvation. This year Ash Wednesday occurs on March 6. Our service will be at 7:00 pm.

The following five Wednesdays will have a different schedule. Beginning with a light supper at 5:00, our services will begin at 6:30. As always, we look for volunteers to sign up to bring food, be it soup or sandwiches or whatever to feed about 20 people (usually). Naturally, you can still come for the service, even if you don't attend the supper.

The Lenten liturgies will be based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew, the 6th chapter. Bulletin covers include themes such as "Blessed Are You"; "Salt and Light"; "Prayer and Fasting"; "Do Not Worry"; "Judge Not"; and "Build on Rock". The Wednesday dates are March 13, 20, & 27, as well as April 3 and 10. The week after that will be Holy Week, and Easter is April 21 this year.

Cont'd.

However, the main thrust I've been promoting for Lent this year is for everybody to dwell on their **faith story.** You are not in this church by accident; God has led you here and has been active in your life. So I want to encourage you to get in touch with your faith story and think about sharing it with others.

Also, I would like to invite a few of you to share your faith story at a Wednesday evening service. You could do this as an individual, or as a married couple, or as a group of siblings, etc. You could prepare your story ahead of time, or you could simply allow me to interview you with questions I give you in advance. I'm looking for volunteers to share their story, but I expect I'll have to recruit a few people as we go along. Here is a sampling of the questions: Were you brought up in a church? Did it have much of an impact on you, or not? Tell us about your family, both as a child and as an adult? What are one or two of your most formative experiences that shaped your life? How have you felt God's hand guiding your life? How has your faith influenced your work, your family life, and even your social life? How would you like the congregation to pray for you?

Please speak up! This will be very interesting. I look forward to sharing the Lenten season with you once again as we march toward the Resurrection of our Lord. Thank you!

Pastor Rick Meier

Pastor Rick Meier

Easter altar flower orders will be taken from Sunday, March 10th - Sunday, April 7th.

The cost per plant is $12.50. White Easter Lily, and varied colors of tulips, kalanchoe, and hyacinth plants are the choices. Order forms are available at church or orders can be called in to Sue in the office at 815-389-1824. Thank you!

Please plan on joining us for our annual Pancake & Ham breakfast at 8am Easter Sunday morning, followed by worship at 9:30 am. Donations sheet will be on the bulletin board.

EMPTY EASTER BASKET FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, March 10-Sunday, April 7

Please share your blessings with those less fortunate by donating cash or boxed/canned food for Caritas.

Everyone's Welcome!

Please join us every Sunday for coffee, snacks and conversation in the Fellowship Room after worship. Donations greatly appreciated!