

MARCH 2017 NEWSLETTER

FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Concordia University-Saint Paul Concert Band Spring Tour

The Concordia University—Saint Paul Concert Band is a 35 piece ensemble that focuses on creative expression through the performance of quality music. The ensemble is made up of music education majors and non music majors alike who rehearse twice a week and perform at least 2 times a semester.

The ensemble stresses qualities like leadership, community, fellowship and independent thinking in an environment that is encouraging and positive.

Professor Aaron Isakson directs the Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble at Concordia University Saint Paul. He has music degrees from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, the University of Minnesota and Concordia Saint Paul. He has been a music educator and performer in the Twin Cities area for many years where he also directs high school band, coaches percussion for Minnesota Youth Symphonies and Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies, coordinates regional music contests for the MSHSL and is regularly sought after to direct band and percussion clinics with high schools in the tri-state area.

The concert will be held at:
T.F. Riggs High School
Saturday, March 11
7:30 PM

The



Lenten Schedule

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"God is Calling!"

March 8, 2017

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Saved in the Storm"

March 15, 2017

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Our Providing God"

March 22, 2017

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"Praying in the Belly of the Great Big Fish"

March 29, 2017

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"The God of the Second Chance"

April 5, 2017

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"About Face!"

April 13, 2017

Maudy Thursday

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

"On the Same Page"

April 14, 2017

Good Friday

7:00 pm only

"The Answer!"

April 16, 2017

Easter

Senior Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Faith:

It is with great humility and joy that I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your new senior pastor. While some of you may remember me from my vicarage year (1999-2000), a great deal has changed both for me and for you. So, please allow me this space to help you become reacquainted with me.

As a way of introduction, let me share with you a bit about my journey:

I was born and raised in a northern Wisconsin town a little smaller than Pierre named Merrill. Before graduating from Merrill High School, I applied and was accepted to Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) where I majored in Pastoral Ministry and Theological Languages (i.e., Greek, Hebrew, and German). After graduating from CUW, I moved to St. Louis, MO to attend seminary at Concordia Seminary. As you know, my vicarage year was spent serving you. After returning to seminary for my final year of study, I met my future wife, Jennifer (Bartlett), at a church function while visiting a friend in the Milwaukee area.

In May of 2001, I graduated from Concordia Seminary and was ordained into the Holy Ministry on June 10, 2001 at my home congregation, Faith Lutheran in Merrill, WI. Following my ordination, I

served a dual parish: Trinity Lutheran Church in Millersburg, IA and Calvary Lutheran Church in Deep River, IA. On January 18, 2002, while serving in Iowa, Jennifer (Jenny) and I were married in Milwaukee, WI. Two years after our marriage, God blessed Jenny and me with a daughter, Emiley. Later that year, I accepted a Call and was installed as pastor at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Augusta, WI. Then, in 2005, God once again blessed Jenny and me with a second daughter, Alexis. Four years later, I accepted the Divine Call to serve Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Janesville, WI.

In 2010, I completed studies at Viterbo University (LaCrosse, WI) and was awarded an M.A. degree in Servant Leadership. The following year, I began working on my doctorate. In 2014, I successfully defended my dissertation and earned a Ph.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, WI. My dissertation centered on John 13:1-20 and Servant Leadership in the context of humility. In Spring of 2016, I completed an Executive Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame.

Aside from serving as a pastor, I was an adjunct professor for Viterbo University teaching

courses in leadership, theology, and philosophy.

When I'm not working or studying, I enjoy being with my family, spending time in the outdoors, and cheering on the Green Bay Packers.

I am eager for the opportunity to use the gifts God has given me. I believe that together we can make a positive impact in people's lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To that end, I look forward to getting to know you as your pastor and serving you for many years to come. God's blessings to you and your service in the name of Christ.

"Now to him who is able to strengthen you accord to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, accord to the command of the eternal God,



Can You Believe It?

Some say that the Bible is full of fairy tale stories, and to top it all off, they say Christians worship some mythical "God" that doesn't exist. Perhaps you too, have known someone who doubts the authority and inspiration of Scripture, and the God of heaven and earth who created it all.

When watching movies like *The Nutty Professor* where animals talk, or *Honey I Shrunk the Kids*, where the family is shrunk to the size of ants, we partake in something called: "*The Suspension of Disbelief*." We realize that for that hour and a half of our lives, we'll have to put aside the thought that what we are seeing doesn't really take place in our reality. How do we reconcile the supernatural miracle episodes in Scripture with what we know to be true in our reality? How can someone be swallowed by a big fish and survive to tell about it? How could a snake possibly talk? The walls of a fortified city couldn't possibly come down from the vibrations of marching, voices, and musical instruments! How could a dead man come back to life after having been dead and buried for three days? Eat my flesh, drink my blood? Christians have some explaining to do!!! The truth is, Christians know full well the joys of faith, of a confidence that is rooted in something so much greater than themselves. We don't have all the answers, but we do have a trust that isn't fickle. Jesus said to His followers in Luke 17:6; "...that if one has faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to that mulberry tree: Be uprooted and thrown into the heart of the sea." Our trust is in Jesus,

who did miraculous things. No matter how small the faith, the trust is BIG!

It's certainly not the *Suspension of Disbelief!* If anything, it takes belief to go against what our head says is logical and possible. "***Your ways are higher than my ways...***" the prophet Isaiah says. God is BIG! God's ways are beyond us. Faith in Jesus is a big thing! "***Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.***" 100% proof requires 0% faith! To discredit God's Word because it doesn't make logical sense in our minds, or because we can't prove it, is to walk away from a God who does ordain things that we don't understand, who does allow things that don't make sense to us, who does keep silent when we think He should speak, who does use the unbelievable to make believers. It can be a frightful thing to try and peer behind the mask of the *Hidden God*. We will never fully know God in all His ways.

Lent is a season marked with pondering and reflection about the God who punishes sin and who, without Jesus, is downright frightening.

During the season of Lent, we acknowledge our sinfulness before our holy God and all the ways in which we cast doubt upon His Word in our lives. We know that at the end of the day: "*Dust we are and to dust we shall return.*" Come to Ash Wednesday service at



*We have
waited for him,
so that he might
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV



Can You Believe It? *continued from page 3*

be reminded of this.

Who are we to try and figure out God? He is eternal, we are mortal. It's about seeing your place in the

story. It's about Jonah seeing his place in the story. I pray that you would join us for worship each Wednesday throughout the season of Lent. Mark your calendars and don't miss it! Lent begins on March 1st with worship at 11 am or 7 pm. Our sermon series will examine the story of Jonah in the light of God's love and mercy for a sinful people. We will see that we too cast doubt on God's Word, try to figure things out our own way, and eventually run the other way from God.

We don't always get God. Jonah didn't get why God wouldn't wipe Nineveh off the map. Jonah didn't get that it wasn't about him. God's message was about His love, a love we know because of His Son Jesus. We don't get how a woman could be made from a man's rib or how Elijah could be carried up to heaven in a chariot of fire. We don't get why God allows cancer, or fires to destroy homes and take lives of little children. Sometimes it all just doesn't make sense to us.... and then we remember our baptism. We remember God's promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We've been 'swallowed up' by God's grace in the waters. That in our baptism, we are heirs of all the treasures of heaven won for us on the cross of Calvary. We remember that our God was not silent, but from the cross, cried out in our place: *"It is finished!"* God has re-

vealed Himself to us through the person and work of Jesus Christ. God's answer for all our questions is the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter. It's belief that carries the day for any Christian. We believe in God the Father Almighty. We believe in the holy Christian church and the communion of saints. We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. We believe that God is eternal and His Word is trustworthy. We believe that Christ will come again. There is a day that has already been purchased where God will drive out all doubt and fear once for all. Sickness, death, and cancer will no longer be in our dictionary. There is a day when Christ shall come again in glory. And guess what?! You've been given a faith in your baptism that believes it! We believe because God has spoken. It's true of Scripture, it's true of all God's promises. Our disbelief doesn't negate the truth of God's Word.

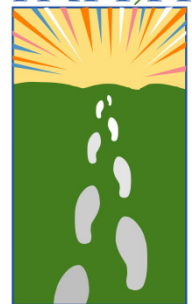
God bless you as you journey this Lent with faith marked by trust in the crucified and ascended Lord. Why can we trust the Word of Jesus? Because Jesus promises that we can.

Pastor Joshua Baumann

God's Word — a Word that is trustworthy and true (Rev. 21:5).

May God enrich your faith and life this

OUR
Journey
OF FAITH



Forever Young



Join us March 1, 2017 for our Forever Young Chicken Feed after our Ash Wednesday worship service at 11:00 am.

Chicken will be provided. Bring salads and side dishes to go with our chicken. Since it is Ash Wednesday and we are going into Lent let's "give up" desserts.



Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our Men's Fellowship is Monday, March 7 at 5:15 PM.

Come enjoy a fun evening of darts and bring a snack to share. Beverage will be provided.

Men's State Dart-ball Tournament will be held Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Faith Lutheran in Pierre in the Christian Family Life Center. Teams will gather for

instructions at 10:30 am. Tournament games start at 11am. Speak to John Barber who is getting a team together. Contact John at 220-2660 if interested.



Practice every Monday night at 5:15 p.m. until the tournament.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Set Your Clocks



Official Acts

**Ahead One Hour
Saturday night,
March 11 or You
Will Be Late for
Church on Sunday,
March 12.**

Baptisms

Hazel Marie Lightfield 1/8

Jaecelle Michael Dennis
2/12

Christian Morgan LaDeaux
2/12

Funerals

Richard LeRoy Adney

Clifford G. Thorn

Rose Clark

Dakotamart Receipts

Board Charges The receipts from all Board charges should be brought to the church office. ***When signing at Dakotamart please use your BEST PENMANSHIP.***

Everyone Please bring your Dakotamart receipts to church and put them in the green boxes in the Narthex and Lobby.



IT'S ABOUT CHRIST!

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord,
and in his mighty power. Put on
the full armor of God,
so that you can take your stand
against the devil's schemes."
Ephesians 6:10 & 11*

This past Sunday, February 12, the Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek was installed as Senior Pastor of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church. Anyone who was present can attest to the fact that the installation was well-covered by the Capital Journal. In fact, it was the lead story in the paper the next day. At the end of the article, Pastor Rajek was quoted as saying, "It's all about Christ." That's how he would like people to remember his ministry.

It got me to thinking about a hymn, "I Bind unto Myself This Day," sung to the tune, ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE. I didn't grow up with this hymn; it was not in The Lutheran Hymnal that I was familiar with, which was published in 1941. I became acquainted with it through my husband's Anglican hymnal. Later though, it was printed in the 1982 Lutheran Worship, and again in the 2006 Lutheran Service Book.

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One and One in Three.

The author, believed to be St. Patrick, a fifth century bishop and missionary in Ireland, seeks God's protection in a world of both tangible and invisible dangers. It reflects the medieval custom of knights who placed inscriptions of prayers in their breastplates, and then recited them as they rode into battle. It is a powerful prayer of a powerful man.

The hymn has numerous verses, but the Anglican Hymnal has what I consider to be a "centerpiece" between verses 5 and 7. In the hymnal, the original poetry has been paraphrased to fit the meter of the music, but here it is as originally written:

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,

Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who
thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who
speaks of me
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
This simple prayer acknowledges God's omnipotence, and that He is involved in every action of every creature for all time. In today's world, the United States included, our freedom of worship, spiritual lives and religious beliefs are coming under fire and rapidly deteriorating. When we think of warfare, we think of combat gear. We need the divine armor of Christ for protection against spiritual adversity.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.



The Imposition of Ashes



“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

For nearly a thousand years, these words have been spoken to young and old alike as the sign of the cross is traced on their foreheads with ashes—the Imposition of Ashes, as it has come to be known. During the last half of the 20th century, Lutherans have also begun to make use of this ancient rite. And so, as our catechism is prone to ask: “What does this mean?” Where did this rite come from, and how can it be used meaningfully in LCMS congregations today?

Ashes in the Bible

The Bible contains a number of references to ashes and dust (cf. Joshua 7:6; 1 Samuel 4:12; 2 Samuel 1:2, 15:32; Job 2:12, 16:15; Jeremiah 25:34; Lamentations 2:10; Ezekiel 27:30; Jonah 3:6). In fact, the Lord’s curse on Adam, “dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19) is echoed in the Imposition of Ashes formula. In the New Testament, Jesus declares: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth

and ashes” (Matthew 11:21). Thus, in the Bible, ashes carry a two-fold meaning: as a sign of human mortality (Genesis 3:19) and as a sign of public repentance (Matthew 11:21).

Ashes in Church History

This understanding carried over into the early and medieval church. Tertullian (ca. 160-225) describes the use of sackcloth and ashes in the penance of an adulterer before his pastor. Originally, ashes were reserved only for public penitents—i.e., murderers, adulterers and others who had fallen away from the church because of grave public sin but desired reconciliation. Such reconciliation could occur at a variety of times during the year, but by the medieval period, the beginning of Lent became a primary season of the church year for that reconciliation to take place.

By the 12th century, ashes became specifically associated with the beginning of Lent, thus providing the first day of Lent with its name, Ash Wednesday. However, by this time, everybody—pastors and people alike—had ashes either sprinkled on their head or traced on their foreheads in the sign of the cross. By the time of the Reformation, the imposition of ashes was a regular mainstay of Lenten piety and prac-

tice.

However, Lutherans at the time of the Reformation did not choose to retain the Imposition of Ashes. The reasons for this are not entirely clear since there is very little written for or against this practice by Luther and his colleagues. Thus, although Lutherans began Lent with Ash Wednesday, they did not retain the use of ashes as part of their Ash Wednesday order of service.

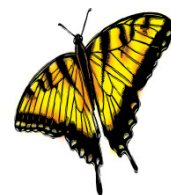
Ashes Today?

A contemporary Lutheran appropriation of the Imposition of Ashes should begin with the two-fold biblical understanding of ashes: as a sign of our mortality and as a sign of our repentance. Likewise, the traditional formula, “Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” is most appropriate, since it paraphrases the words of God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:19). By receiving the ashes, the worshipper acknowledges that God’s judgment against our sin is right and just. But the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross—the very instrument by which our Lord took upon himself the punishment for our sin, in our place. Thus, the cross of ashes serves to remind us that we are sinners, and that Christ died for us sinners.

Dear Faith family, after much prayer and consideration, I am announcing my retirement at the end of this summer as the Director/Teacher of Faith Lutheran Preschool. I have chosen to announce it at this time so parents who register their children for next fall will know I will not be the teacher next year. For the past 31 years, it has been my privilege and honor to be your voice to the little ones who have come to our preschool to get ready for kindergarten and to learn about Jesus. Your support and prayers over these past years has been tremendous! Thank you so much for all you have done to help Faith Lutheran Preschool be the best it can be! It has been a huge blessing to be able to serve my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the church and the community in this very special way. God’s blessings to each of you!

Jan Larson

If you are aware of anyone who would be interested in applying for the position, please let the church office (224-2216) or Shelley Larson, chairperson of the Board of Early Childhood Education, know. Her number is 605-280-6245. The position requires a four year degree in Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education. Thank you!





Tables and boxes will be set up in the Narthex. You can place your items in the appropriate boxes -or- just leave them on a table, and we'll be happy

to sort and box them. **March is Faith's month to collect items for the Food Pantry.**

During the month of March, we'll have tables in the Narthex, with boxes for donations of items for the Pierre-Ft. Pierre Food Pantry. At the end of the month, a crew of Faithful volunteers will haul the items to the Food Pantry.

Our congregation is one of the largest supporters of the Food Pantry. There is a significant need at this time, so our generous support of this project is very important.

All types of nonperishable food, paper products, and personal hygiene items are needed by the agency, so be sure to keep an eye out for specials at the grocery store.

Financial Contributions

Financial donations are also welcome. Checks may be made payable to Pierre Area Referral Service / Food Pantry, and can be dropped off in the church office.

Items Needed At All Times

- Baked beans, and pork & beans
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Cream soups, chunky soups, and chili
- Fruit juices
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail
- Potato mixes, rice mixes, and stuffing mixes
- Sal-
- crack-
- Spa-
- sauce

**FOOD
DRIVE**



time
ers
ghetti
and
to-



FLC Preschool News

During February we celebrated Valentine's Day, pink hearts, 8 and PQR. Besides exchanging valentines we also had our art easels out and learned about the primary colors. Each day we wore a certain color and shared that with the rest of the class. We had several Bible stories teach us about God's love for us and our love for each other. Attending the annual Mardi Gras event on February 28th is always a fun time too. Thank you LYF for hosting this wonderful evening for families!

March—what a busy time this will be with so many activities happening at preschool! Besides our monthly emphasis of the color blue, the diamond shape, the

number 7 and the letters STUV, we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day, and having parent conferences. We will also have a science center where the children bring different items of interest to share with the class—seashells, insects, rocks, fossils, whatever they think is neat about nature and/or science. Parent/Teacher conferences are Monday, March 20 and Tuesday, March 21 and we have the beginning of our Lending Library where children check out books for one week at a time. Even though there are five weeks in March, they are packed full and the time will continue to 'fly by'!

What a great year we have had at

Faith Lutheran Preschool! Please note that the registration for next year is below which starts March 1st. Please return your registration form as soon as possible. Once I receive your form with the \$30.00 registration, your child is registered. Your voice of recommendation is our best advertisement.



Faith Lutheran Preschool Pre-Registration Form

_____ will attend Faith Lutheran Preschool in the 2017-2018 school year.

Child's Name _____

_____ Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Mom's Work) _____ (Mom's Cell) _____

Child's Birth Date _____ (Dad's Work) _____ (Dad's Cell) _____

Please check section preferred:

_____ Mon/Wed/Fri a.m. * (9:00-11:30)

_____ Tues/Thur a.m.** (9:00-11:30)

_____ Tues/Thur p.m.** (1:00-3:30)

* Must be three (3) by June 1, 2017

** Must be five (5) by December 31, 2017 or Previously attended Faith Lutheran Preschool

Parent's Names _____

Parent's Address _____

Your registration fee: \$30.00 (Non-Refundable)

Monthly Tuition: 2 day - \$75.00

3 day - \$112.50

Mardi Gras – will be the next major LYF activity. It is Tuesday, Feb. 28th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. We need all of our high school youth to help with the games. We need youth here at 4:35 p.m. to make this run smooth, 10-15 L.Y.F. youth would be ideal to help out! Set-up will be Monday, Feb. 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Night of 8th Grade Questioning—All are invited to attend the evening of questioning for our 8th grade confirmation students. The rite of questioning is a major moment for our 8th grade Midweek students and they would be so appreciative of your support. Join us Wednesday, April 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary followed by refreshments.

Camp Minneboji... dates for this summer are set and will be Sunday, June 25th through Saturday, July 1st. Registration booklets are on the back information table in the Narthex. The theme for this year's camp is: "**Sola**" Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)
Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Sola Christus (Christ Alone)
Never Alone (Alone, yet together)

MIDWEEK — Our last night of Midweek classes for this year is going to be Wednesday evening May 3rd concluding with an ice cream party (outside). We also want to remind our Midweek students that they will be singing on Moth-

March Acolyte Schedule

+March 1 Ash Wednesday

7:00 Ethan Hill, Nate Hill

March 5

Early: Sammie Axtell, Cassie Axtell

Late: Brant Malfero, Brady Hofteizer

+March 8 LENT 7:00-7:45 p.m.

7:00 Andrew Axdahl, Nathan Shoup

March 12

Early: Jordan Thompson, Zane Schuchard

Late: Chloe Kaiser, Deni Zeeb

+March 15 LENT 7:00-7:45 p.m.

7:00 Brooke Kampfe, Emily Haberling

March 19 (Sunday School Sings at 11 o'clock)

Early: Cassandra Ryckman, Carson Tschetter

Late: Adam Schochenmaier, Trevor Hayes

+March 22 LENT 7:00-7:45 p.m.

7:00 Austin Fawcett, Natalie Fawcett

March 26

Early: Jessica Weber, Daniel Voita

Late: Daniel Magee, Trevor Hayes



J.Y.M. Circuit Bible Camp *5th - 9th Gr.

*(for the 2017 school year)

Bible Camp will be in July 2017

**Dates TBD & announced in
next month's newsletter.**

Location: TBD - Either The Hills or Nebraska

Cost: \$90 w/ \$30 Faith Scholarship

Information & sign-up on the back table in the Church Narthex

