

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

LENTEN SCHEDULE

April 2, 2025

“Protector”

April 6, 2025

“Mount Sinai”

April 9, 2025

“Comforter”

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

“King”

April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday

“Servant”

April 18, 2025

Good Friday

“Savior”

April 20, 2025

“Redeemer”



Our 2025 Confirmands

Lexi Jane Bales

Abigail Theresa Brusseau

Cadence Cornelison

Sophie Dawn Fuerst

Jackson Matthew Grohs

Blake R. Hansen

Jaxton Hoftiezer

Kourtney Dee Ann Hughes

Julia Mae Jacobson

Lander Wade Marnell

Hudson Okroi

Lincoln Eugene Olson

Sumara Caroline Elizabeth Paul

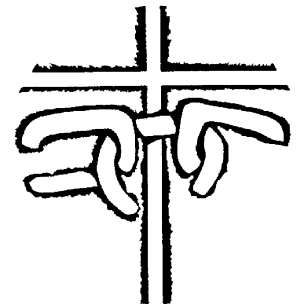
Lily Jane Reitzel

Colt John Schilling

Elyssa Tedder

Confirmation Questioning—April 23,
2025 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary

Confirmation—
Sunday, April 27,
2025 at the 11:00
worship service



The Need for Easter

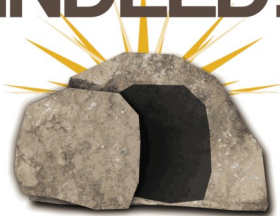
The life of Christ, and indeed God's whole plan of salvation, must be taken as a whole. In theory, I suppose that God could have done many things differently, or even certain things not at all. As it stands, God has acted and does act in very specific ways. We are not capable of speculating about what might be more or less important. Instead, what I can say in this article is not a matter of my own opinion, nor is it a carefully worded logical argument. I can make this point because God himself makes it: the resurrection of Jesus is vitally necessary.

God puts it this way, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Cor 15:17). To say it another way, we need Easter. We do not simply need Easter as a remedy for Good Friday. Easter is not only a message of good news in the face of death. St. Paul goes so far as to say that our entire faith is undone unless we have Easter. Our sins, with the forgiveness that we receive from the death of Christ on Good Friday, is likewise nullified without Easter. Easter ties together not only the life of Christ but God's whole plan of salvation. It is the bow on top of the present. It is the icing on the cake. It is the final and ultimate triumph of a man who hung lifeless upon a cross. It is the hope and certainty for each one of our lives. We need Easter.

On Easter Day, we sing. We praise our God who has carefully created this world in which we live. We thank our God who has come down from heaven to earth, lived the whole of a human life, and granted us victory over our enemies. We honor our God who puts faith in our hearts and continues to work in us and through us. The Easter songs are bold and triumphant. They declare a message that God has been painstakingly constructing throughout all the events of human history: to raise his Son from the dead. The life of Christ ends (although that word is not entirely accurate) in victory. Your life ends (still not entirely accurate) in victory. Later in 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul mocks the feebleness of death when he says, "**Death is swallowed up in victory.**"



**He Is
RISEN
INDEED!**



We need Easter. We need to be reminded of Easter as we watch sickness, accidents, and advancing years affect the people around us. We need Easter when we look around at the problems of this world. We need Easter to give peace to our minds and rest to our weary consciences. For all these reasons and more, God gives us Easter. His plan of salvation and the life of Christ would be incomplete without this day. God gives us what we need: Easter morning, to remember the resurrection of Christ and to look forward to our own.

Pastor Sam

Going Face to Face

*"For whenever you eat this bread and
drink this cup, you proclaim the
Lord's death until he comes."
1 Corinthians 11:26*

Not too long after my folks had been moved from assisted living to long-term care at St. William's Living Center, my brother and I were in town for a few days, and stopped in to see them. Their room was empty, and as I came back down the hallway, a nurse indicated they were at "Lutheran Communion." She pointed in the direction of the chapel, so Norm and I entered quietly in the back, since Pastor Lee had already started the service. An aide noticed us, and she wheeled Mom and Dad over to the chairs in back where we were sitting.

*Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.*

During a song, I observed Pastor Lee prepare additional communionware and elements, and I knew my brother and I would also be included. Soon he began the distribution and walked to where the four of us were sitting. Dad was alert. I looked at Mom; she was sitting with her head down and looked like she was in a fog -- she hadn't moved a muscle. Her hands were folded limply in her lap. I figured she was sleeping. Pastor approached her, broke a wafer in half and placed the tiny morsel in her mouth, followed by a few drops of wine. She licked her lips, having never looked up. She apparently hadn't noticed that my brother and I were present..... I wondered if she even knew what was happening.....

*This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.*

This hymn, penned by Horatio Bonar in the 17th Century, describes a yearning desire for a direct and profound connection with God. It is the "touching and handling of things unseen," and "feasting" on the spiritual sustenance offered at the Lord's Supper -- face to face, flesh to flesh. It is celebrating our

new identity in Christ. It is the integration of beauty, goodness and truth. It is the hope of eternal life, the power of faith, and trusting in God's grace.

*Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.*

As Christians, we form a symphony orchestra of sorts, where Christ is the conductor. We watch and we follow. His compositions weave the textures and themes of our lives into a redemptive masterwork. His podium was the cross. He stepped up, raised his arms, and the entire world felt the downbeat that would drown out the deafening silence of grave. Even though Christ is risen, the music doesn't end. The Holy Spirit has given us the song! We continue to look to Him, and wait and respond to His gestures as he continues to conduct. In Him we live and move and have our being. We are His workmanship and are tuned to sing His praises!

*Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.*

We didn't have the opportunity as did the disciples, to see the risen Christ, face to face for 40 days. But we participate now in the written word, and we "see" Him through the eyes of faith. When we gather at His table in our weaknesses and inadequacies, we confess our sinfulness -- and then rejoice in Christ's abundant sufficiency -- His payment for all the sins of all men for all time! And -- by the way -- as we were leaving the chapel, and wheeling Mom and Dad to the dining room, Mom suddenly looked up and said, "Wasn't that a nice service?" They have now seen Christ face to face and are at the marriage feast of the Lamb!

Karen Lindbloom



This and That

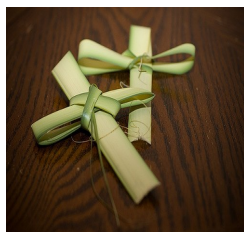
Palm Cross Assembly

If anyone would like to help make palm crosses for Palm Sunday our assembly day is **Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 a.m.** Many hands will make the large job go more quickly. It is a fun time of fellowship for the many who come each year.

There will be some veteran folders on hand to help show everyone how to fold the crosses.

We will meet downstairs in the great room at the bottom of the stairs.

Please bring a pair of scissors with you.



Post-high school graduates and college students

The Ladies of Faith Circle will be sending the post-high school graduates and college students an Easter greeting to the homes of their parents. We are letting parents know this so they can expect an envelope in the mail to pass on to their child.

If there is a better way to connect with your young adult, please contact the church office with their address.

We thank you for helping us with this ministry to support your young adults.

Mexico Mission Trip Spring Yard Work – Rent-A-Worker



Be watching in the Narthex for information about our spring rent-a-worker program. We will again be doing yard cleanup, power-raking, window cleaning, small odd jobs, and other fund raising opportunities for you to support this mission financially.



Preschool News

YAY! We finally see spring! In the month of April, we hope to get out and go on some walks to find sightings of spring. We have a busy month planned with learning our final letter R, C & Z, we will also be talking about color green and the shape octagon.

As we wrap up the month of March and into April, we learned all about the sacrifices Jesus made for us when he died on the cross. I love teaching the children the Easter Story and spreading the word of Jesus.

A few fun things as we wrap up our school year is the kids will be getting to have ZESTO for the letter Z, and the two Kindergarten readiness classes will be taking a field trip to the Discovery Center.

We still have a few openings for next year's preschool, if you know anyone in need send them our way. We would love to have them.

God's blessings to all of you as we enjoy the beautiful spring weather and experience the joy of Easter season.

Kelsey Kampfe

Preschool Director/Teacher



He's Risen!

Daycare News

In March we hosted our Butter Braid Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who supported us through this fundraiser! We made just shy of \$3000 profit. This will definitely make the conference we are attending in September more affordable for our teachers! We are hoping we will have these by the end of March!

Our waitlist continues to grow, and we would love to get some more of the children in our program, but we need staff. If you could continue to spread the word that we are needing teachers this would be amazing. We have started our little gardens in all classrooms, and we will be transplanting them to our raised gardens when they are ready. We had a family that donated time and materials to make these beds for us. We are truly blessed to have the support from all of the church members.

April Curriculum Themes:
ABCDEaster

Bible Story: *Easter Story* –
Concept: Jesus Died for our sins

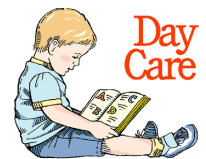
Weather

Bible Story: *Jesus Heals the Blind Man with Mud* – Concept: We need spiritual sight. God works in different ways.

1, 2, 3 Chicks and Puddles

Bible Story: *Daniel and the Lion's Den* – Concept: Sometimes people will try to trick us because we love God. We should be faithful in prayer. God is always able to protect us.

Thank you for all the ways you support our daycare!



Mandy Vogel/Kim Jensen
daycare@faithluth.com

Official Acts

Baptism

Chesney Jean Okroi 2/23/25

Sawyer Andrew Lee Comer
2/23/25

Funerals

Joyce Nielsen 2/28/25

Loni Shoup 4/12/25



Forever Young
Our **Forever Young**
meal for April will
be the second
Wednesday in April,
April 9.

Forever Young is a
group of retired and
semi-retired mem-
bers who get togeth-
er once a month for
food and fellowship.
Please join us for a
potluck luncheon.

Bring a dish to
share. Hope to see
you there!

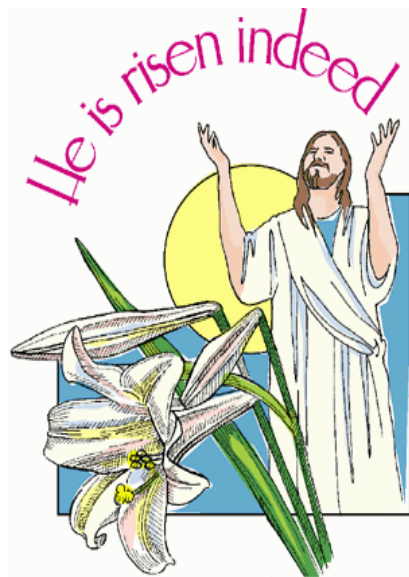


POTLUCK DINNER
FOR SENIORS

Men's Club



Our Men's Club
will meet on April
7. We will be
throwing some
bean bags. Let's
warm up those
throwing arms!
Please bring a
snack to share.



Faith Lutheran LWML Event

Monday, April 14
7:00 pm

St. Matthew Room
(upstairs)

Guest Speaker:

Sarah Reinhart of Mis-
souri Shores Domestic
Violence Center

Silent Auction fund-
raiser for Missouri
Shores

Refreshments will be
served.

Anyone is welcome to
attend.

General Fund Financial Status Monthly Update

Each month in the newsletter there will be a review of the General Fund financial giving and needs to date for the year. This will allow you to help gauge your contributions at a level to meet the needs of the church. Insurance costs have especially been on the rise as well as maintenance as our campus ages. Your diligent and loving giving expresses gratitude to God for blessings received, supports the church's mission to spread the gospel, demonstrates love for the community, and aligns your heart with God by prioritizing spiritual needs over material wealth.

January 2025, the giving to the General Fund was \$41,475. The expenditures of the General Fund were \$54,142. That was a shortfall of \$12,667 for the month of January 2025.

February 2025, the giving to the General Fund was \$45,080. The expenditures of the General Fund were \$45,974. That was a shortfall of \$894 for the month of February 2025.

Year To Date, the General Fund has a shortfall of \$13,561.

ONLINE GIVING - SAVE 2.5% TRANSACTION FEE

Many of you use the option at Faith to give online. Online giving is more convenience and allows giving to the Lord to be more intentional. Giving online can be scheduled for every week or month and can be directed to various ministries of the church.

Please note that a **per transaction fee of 2.75%** is placed on debit and credit card transactions. You have the option to pay the fee or else it is deducted from the amount designated to donate. To avoid this fee, your scheduled donation may be taken directly out of your checking or savings account. To designate this, you may complete a form on the church website at this link: <https://faithluth.com/giving/achgivingnopertransactionfee/> or stop in the church office to receive a form from Helen.

In summary, the following are the ways to give at Faith Lutheran:

1. Contribute during worship services on Sunday and Wednesday, or drop off offering at the church or mail it in.
2. Contribute online with **no per transaction fee**. This option transfers directly from your savings or checking account.
3. Contribute online with **a per transaction fee of 2.75%**. This option deducts this percent from the amount given to the church by your credit or debit card.





PASSOVER SEDER MEAL

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:00 pm

Passover is the oldest of the Jewish festivals and is specifically commanded by God to be observed by the Jewish people in Exodus 12. The festival has its roots in the Exodus, God's act of deliverance of His chosen people Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians.

As we celebrate the Passover Supper, we want to remember that in the East a meal also has a special significance which it does not have for us in the West. In the East, eating together is in itself a pledge of friendship and loyalty, and so in the eating of this meal we are binding ourselves in fellowship by sharing together the common meal in commemoration of the Last Supper which Jesus ate with His disciples. Please be thinking of this meal as an expression of your love and loyalty to Jesus and of the special Christian family we share.

FAITH'S YOUTH GROUP meets every Wednesday @ 8:00 p.m. at Faith. Open to anyone in eighth grade through high school and is intended to be a safe place where high school aged youth can come together to spend time and fellowship together as young Christians each week. Pastor Handschke and Michael Shoup lead the group. If you have an activity that you would like to do, please let them know! Creativity is welcome!



EASTER

