

DIVINE CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

July 2022

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Truth with Grace



Faith Lutheran Church
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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Peter Kuritz, Interim Pastor
Peggy Rapp, President
John Lyman, Vice-President
Paul Frantz, Secretary
Ben Mroz III, Treasurer
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Bible Study:
Sunday, 7:30 a.m.

Worship Services:
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

What is going on at Faith?

- We have hired a new secretary, Janet Kath, who is in the office, Tuesday – Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Saturday, July 30 is Vacation Bible Camp from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme is Super Fruits of the Spirit.



- Saturday, August 13, is Faith Fair from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



- The Concert series continues with performances on August 7 and August 28, both starting at 7p.m.



When are we going back to two services?

Due to attendance as well as budget constraints, there currently are no plans to have two services anytime soon.



When are we getting a new minister?

The Call Committee did interview a prospective minister in April who had appeared willing to service Faith part-time (as well as service St. Marks, Appenzell part-time.) Unfortunately, a serious illness made him withdraw his name from consideration.



There are currently eighty Lutheran churches in the NEPA Synod without a full-time minister (this is out of 269 congregations.) Additionally, over the last five years, the Synod has had a net loss of forty-seven ministers. Many congregations share ministers, have interim ministers, or part-time fill-in ministers as well as conducting services with lay leaders. Faith is currently in communication with St. Marks to look at shared ministry. This is

necessitated because Faith can no longer financially support a full-time minister. While finances are good at the present time, overall financial support to Faith is being stressed. COVID, lack of attendance and the accompanying lack of donations, loss of members due to move or death, and apparent apathy, all contribute to trying to continue the missions of Faith with dwindling income.

Is Faith in trouble?

Currently, the simple answer is NO. There remains a core number of members and friends that regularly attend service, and along with other friends of Faith from across the country, continue to support the missions of our church. Additionally, we are blessed that there are several volunteers that continue to work behind the scenes to keep Faith moving forward. There remains a vitality and a commitment at Faith to continue to be Christ's disciples in this place, presently.



Where do I fit in?

All are welcome in God's loving embrace. Church services are here because Jesus asks us to commune with Him and with one another. We are continually restored in faith by Word and Sacrament. We hope that visitors and friends find us to be welcoming. As members, we enjoy certain privileges, such as the right to vote on issues facing congregation, and the ability to sit on Council or other committees to share our voices in the missions and operation of Faith. With membership also comes responsibility. We are, as disciples of Jesus Christ, called to help those in need in our church, our community, and throughout the world. This is put forth in our Mission Statement. That help can be from volunteering in any number of ways, but also comes from prayerfully considering our financial commitment to the furtherance of God's work through the missions of Faith.



What if I have concerns or questions, to whom do I talk?

Contrite prayers to God never go unanswered.



However, Pastor Peter Kuritz is an excellent listener and a remarkable source of comfort and insight. He is regularly in the office on Wednesdays (except the second Thursday of each month when he is in that day, later to stay for Council meeting.) He has been actively visiting members and friends who cannot get to church, so a phone call to visit with him is recommended.

Additionally, you can voice concerns to any of the members of Council. Or should you wish to address the full Council at



a meeting, you can call Peggy to request placement on the Council agenda.