THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Thank you to all who attended the annual meeting and participated in respectful discussion, sharing of opinions, and listening to others; thank you to all who prayed and listened for God's guidance.

Thank you to Jim Legge, Karen Bohm and Treva Tisdell for living their faith through serving on Council, your perspective helped lead us forward during these times of transition.

Thank you to the new folks who have agreed to serve on council for a three year term: Donna Streiff, Paul Kapla and Theresa Hanson.

Council Officers are:  
Council President: Cheryl Ashbeck  
Vice President: Sue Vrana  
Secretary: Thom Gerretsen  
Treasurer: Bill Olsen

Next steps mapped out include:  
**One worship service** beginning in March - Worship at 9:00 and Education time at 10:15. This will give us an opportunity to experience new things and become more aware of what it might feel like for someone who has not grown up with the worship traditions of Faith Lutheran.

New Mission Statement adopted:  **Loved by God, Living for others**

Part of our journey going forward will be to refocus on this simple message. It all starts with God: God creating us, God loving us, God coming to be with us, God forgiving us, God making us new. We are loved by God and that love then changes us, transforms our lives and turns us outward, denying self, putting others first, letting go of our worries, deepening our trust in God's amazing love by living that love for others. We grow in our faith as we live our faith for others.

More **accessible bathrooms** are a priority to make our building welcoming to all. The bathrooms on the main floor near the office will be remodeled this year.

**Pew cushions** were discussed at the annual meeting last year. Since the pews in the very back of the church have some structural weakness along with very old pew cushions, it was decided chairs will be placed in that section of our worship space.

Part 2:

**LENT** begins on Ash Wednesday March 6 and concludes Easter Sunday, April 21

We are on a journey of faith and Lent is a time to reflect on the ways God is leading us to grow in our faith, to trust Jesus more deeply and to find joy in the journey as Jesus shines light on new paths.

**Wednesday worship during Lent begins at 5:15**. Ash Wednesday March 6 will include Holy Communion and an opportunity to be marked with ashes as a sign of death to the old way of life AND the new resurrection life that Jesus makes possible for every person. You are invited and you are encouraged to invite someone else. Research shows that 80% of new people who attend worship, did so because someone invited them; many people are waiting to be invited, they often do not know that everyone is welcome at church.

The following Wednesday evenings, worship will also begin at 5:15 and we will enjoy Holden Evening Prayer service along with readings from a letter written from prison. Bring your own Bible, follow along, take notes, find JOY in the journey. This amazing letter, you may know it as the book of Philippians, includes a message of JOY even in the midst of opposition and uncertainty; a message for us today!

Food too, after worship we will enjoy conversation around tables, sharing our faith and food. Again, others may be delighted by an invitation to join a community meal to find connection and hope. Ask someone to join you, even if they are fearful, at least they will have heard the message that the church is for them and someone cares and wants them to feel welcome and included.

Come journey together, grow, experience living faith, bless the gathered community with your presence and the gift you are; experience joy in the journey with Jesus.

God's Peace, Pastor Gisele
On March 3rd, Sunday School and Sunday Confirmation Students will be participating in God’s Work Our Hands during the regular Sunday School hour 9:15-10:15.
Through projects and activities, they will learn about how they can be a servant of God by helping others and showing appreciation to those who keep us safe.

Sunday School students have given a total of $56 to go towards our “Adopt a Buddy” offering project. A total of $78 is needed to provide a Nutrition on Weekend (NOW) food bag to a youth for the school year.

Random Acts of Kindness – check out the bulletin board outside the Education Office. There are several envelopes that hold cards with acts of kindness written on them that students can do. We are going to see how many kindness acts are done in the next 4 weeks. Anyone is welcome to take one, instructions on how it work is posted on the board and there are tear-off sheets that you can take with you. Thank you, Patty Heller, for the wonderful idea!

There are nine 8th grade students who are starting to prepare for their confirmation day. During the next few weeks they will be going on a retreat, working on bible verses and faith statements, making their stoles, and planning their confirmation day service.

Future Dates to Remember:
March 12th at 5:30 - Education & Family Mission Team Meeting
March 24th & 31st - No Sunday School or Sunday Confirmation classes
Adult Ed class will have class both days
April 3rd - Education & Family Team sponsored Soup Supper
April 12th – Kids Night Out
April 14th – Seder Meal for 6th & 7th Grade students and their families
April 21st – No Sunday School or Sunday Confirmation classes
No Adult Ed class

COMING IN MARCH TO A BIBLE STUDY NEAR YOU -
“Revelation” You won’t want to miss this action-packed study! Meeting time is 9:00 am every Tuesday starting on March 5th. Location is in the Upper Room at Faith Lutheran Church. For more info contact Karen Bohm at 387-4230. BYOB (Bring your own Bible).
**Lent Soup Suppers start March 6th**

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space.

To donate Easter Lilies to beautify the Chancel area on Easter Sunday, pick up your donation forms in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions call the church office 715.387.3757. Last date to receive funds and forms is Monday, April 15th. If you are bringing an Easter Lily please drop them off by Thursday, April 18th. Thank you.

**Thrivent Members**

2018 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2019. Please remember to use your dollars, either contact Thrivent on-line or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice."

**EMPTY BOWLS COMING SOON!**

The Empty Bowls project was created over 20 years ago by a Michigan art teacher. He wanted to teach hunger awareness. He invited friends over for a simple meal. At the end of the meal, he invited his guest to take their bowl home, as a reminder that “Somewhere, someone’s bowl is always empty”

Marshfield Area Empty Bowls has been part of the Marshfield area since 2012.

The 2019 event will be at Hotel Marshfield on Saturday March 9th from 11 am to 2pm. There will be hundreds of ceramic bowls to choose from, 20 soups and over 30 raffle prizes to try your luck at winning.

Volunteers are welcome and needed as it takes many hands to make this event a success.

Please contact Cheryl at souporsockscheryl@gmail.com to volunteer or talk to Christine Stromme.

More info about Empty Bowls at: www.marshfieldemptybowls.org

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**Men’s Breakfast**

All men are invited to join us for a time of food & fellowship the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30 at Melody Gardens.

Questions?
Call Stan Panek
715-652-2140

**Walking together is on March 9th** at UW Eau Claire in the Davies Center. Cost is $25 which includes lunch.

This year’s theme is "Holy Experiments" and there will be many workshops to choose from that include best practices for worship, social justice, faith formation, leadership, congregational vitality and more!

We will be trying a "Holy Experiment" during the event by hosting Walking Together in tandem with Christ Jam, our annual middle school event. We will begin our time together with a large group, cross-generational opening, including conversation, an activity, and TED-type talks about innovation, and trying new things. This will be followed by 5 workshop opportunities and lunch, as usual, during this event.

We hope to see you there!

**You need to register** for Walking Together online at [http://nwswi.org/home/calendar-of-events](http://nwswi.org/home/calendar-of-events) and clicking on the event registration form or print off the form and mail it in.

**Lent Soup Suppers start March 6th**

Sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Space.
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – February 3 & 21

- New Council officers were elected: President Cheryl Ashbeck, Vice President Sue Vrana, Secretary Thom Gerretsen.
- Initial discussion of making it easier for parishioners to follow and sing along with both traditional & contemporary hymns once the new “one-service Sundays” begin March 10. Referred to Worship & Music Team to develop specific proposals.
- Postcards about the new 9 a.m. service will be sent to members who don’t receive the church’s emails.
- Discussion on using the new FLC website to better inform members of Mission Team activities/meeting discussions.
- Pastor Gisele reported on the “Canoeing the Mountains” conference that staff members attended in late January in the Twin Cities’ area. They learned a number of things about the uncertain changes in the church. One seminar described how Faith could have “small group discussions” to let people be heard about the church’s future and what they’d like to see happen.

2019 Council Representatives

Cheryl Ashbeck—President, Faith in Action clynnashbeck@gmail.com
Sue Vrana – Vice-president, Facilities Management svrana@charter.net
Thom Gerretsen—Secretary, Worship and Music tgwert@hotmail.com
Bill Olsen — Treasurer billolsen@tds.net
Gary Grassman—Education garyg@c21goldkey.com
Donna Streiff— streiffonclay@tds.net
Paul Kapla— pkapla@charter.net
Theresa Hanson—btzhanson@gmail.com
Cole Hansen—Youth cahanson2013@gmail.com
Jan Taylor—Social Concerns/Green jantaylor15@gmail.com

How to Contact Us 387-3757
Office Hours 9-3 M-TH
Pastor Gisele Berninghaus pastor@faithmarshfield.org
Dar Schubert, Secretary secretary@faithmarshfield.org
Richard Brunson, Choir Director rbrunson@gmail.com
Kim Vrana, Youth Director youth@faithmarshfield.org
Treva Tisdell, Education & Family Ministry familyed@faithmarshfield.org
Rebecca Voss, Communications Specialist rebecca.voss96@gmail.com
Kari Jensen, Interim Contemporary Music Coordinator jensens4@tds.net

Congregational Record Updates:
Transfer Out:
Araylla Henniger has transferred to First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD.
Beth, Clara, & Henry Behnke-Seper transferred to Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls, WI
David Behnke-Seper – removed from membership, moved to MN

2019 Chequamegon Conference
Spring Rally
Saturday March 30th
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church - Holway
W7809 Apple Ave Medford, WI
All women are invited to join us for a day of fellowship, renewal and relaxation.
Registration: 8:30 am with refreshments.
Rally from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Lunch served at noon.
For more information contact Judy Rhodes at 384-2784 or jrossrhod@charter.net.

Worship Times will change March 10th!
There will be one Worship Service at 9 AM.
The 1st and 3rd Sundays will be Traditional Worship and the 2nd and 4th will be Contemporary Worship.
Sunday School and Coffee Hour will be at 10:15.
During Lent, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Easter, we reflect on what God is calling us to do. Just as our mission statement declares, we are “loved by God, living for others”. Who are the “others” for whom we are living? They are our fellow members at Faith; our neighbors in the community; our neighbors all over the world. We all share the same planet; we are all neighbors. Some of the “others” have not yet been born; but we live our lives in preparation to leave this world to them. How can we leave them a better version of the beautiful world that God has created for us?

If you joined us last year by avoiding the use of plastic bags and straws, thank you! Hopefully it became a practice throughout the year. If not, Lent is a perfect time to begin a more sustainable lifestyle. The Green Team has some practical suggestions for your consideration. Hopefully they will become a long-term way of living in God’s world and caring for His creation. **Would you like to accept our 2019 challenge to incorporate one or more additional ideas into your household?** Would you encourage others to do the same? Everyone’s efforts really do make a difference.

I will bring reusable shopping bags with me when I go to the supermarket and other stores. I will put produce into reusable mesh bags or not use a bag at all. I will refuse plastic bags when they are offered to me. If I forget my bags in my car, I will go back out and get them.

I will recycle clean, dry plastic bags, bubble wrap, and plastic film at a local collection site (Festival Foods, Pick N Save, Target, Walmart).

I will enjoy my beverages without straws. If a straw is needed, I will use a paper straw.

I will avoid packaging and products that contain Styrofoam (which cannot be recycled).

When dining out in restaurants that offer single-use cutlery, I will bring my own silverware.

I will bring my own container for leftovers.

When purchasing hot drinks from a drive-through, I will bring my own reusable travel mug.

I will not consume bottled water.

In my kitchen, I will seek alternatives to using plastic wrap (reusable foil; silicone covers; plates; wax paper; bees-wax wrap covers; mason jars).

I will strive to use fewer plastic food storage bags. I will wash and re-use them when possible.

I will contact my legislators and encourage them to support bills that foster good stewardship of the earth’s resources.

I will try to reduce my overall consumption of the earth’s resources; I will re-use and re-purpose materials when I can; and I will recycle everything that I can.

Remember that you can bring these products to the Upper Room for recycling: CFL bulbs, small household batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges, plastic caps and lids, Christmas tree lights, aluminum cans (one Sunday / month), eye glasses, card fronts, crayons, and candles.

Here at Faith, you will notice that the Cinnamon Buns prepared for us by FLY will be placed on paper plates, not Styrofoam. Also, for our next food event – the potluck lunch on God’s Word, Our Hands Sunday, March 3 – efforts have been made to avoid plastics, Styrofoam, and single-use materials. Faith is making a difference!

The Green Team / Social Concerns group also welcomes your ideas and suggestions. Would you like to attend one of our meetings? We will be meeting again on **Monday, March 4, at 6:30** in the Upper Room. Consider joining our group of enthusiastic world-changers!

**RECYCLING REMINDER**
Our source for reusing prescription bottles is no longer accepting them. The bottles should be placed in your city collection for recycling. The caps can be brought to church and placed in the appropriate kiosk drawer in the Upper Room. They will be taken to Elroy for recycling.

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**Next book club meeting is**
**April 15th, 7PM**

We will meet at Sandy Bailey’s. Facilitator is Ruth Stram.

"Becoming" by Michelle Obama.

We will not meet over the summer so everyone is encouraged to bring books to exchange for summer reading.
Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

Help for the Homeless is a collection drive for hygiene and cleaning products – items not available to residents participating in Food Share programs. The drive works with area homeless coalitions every spring to stock the shelves of 83 homeless and crisis programs in 15 Wisconsin communities. This year’s drive runs from now through March 10. Urgent items requested include: cleaning supplies – laundry soap, dish soap, garbage bags, floor cleaner, and disinfectant cleaner; hair care – shampoo; paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, and feminine care items; baby care – diapers, pull-ups sizes 4-6, and wipes; personal care – soft soap, bar soap, unscented deodorant, and razors; and dental care – soft toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Faith Lutheran Church is a collection site. Please drop donations off in the designated bins in the Upper Room. For more information, call 800-236-9364.

Financial donations are also accepted for this drive. Please make (tax deductible) checks out to “The Family” with “Help for the Homeless” written on the memo line. Mail them to: The Family Radio, Attn. Heidi Prahl, 1909 W 2nd St, Appleton WI 54914. Your donations will buy gift cards from local retailers, of the agencies’ choice, for them to use for hygiene supplies. Funds stay in the community where the check comes from.

Partners in Faith - interested in joining Faith Lutheran, have questions, want a refresher on what we believe?

Everyone welcome, come discuss, share, meet other partners (members) of Faith and those who want to know more.

We will discuss Holy communion, Baptism, Who is God and whatever other questions bubble up in conversation.

Invite friends, all are welcome.

When? Sundays March 17, 24 & 31 after 9:00 worship.
Where? We will meet downstairs in the "T. V." room (follow Pastor Gisele to find location)
What? Time to inquire and grow in faith and partnership.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY (MARCH 3)

–No regular worship, but instead, this day is a congregation wide service project with service opportunities for all ages and abilities at several places in our community as well as here at church. Sign up now! Timeline for the day: 9:00-9:15 Celebration Sending (no regular worship), 9:30 – 11:00ish service projects, 11:30 potluck, sharing and closing at church.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS POTLUCK

Next Sunday, March 3, following the service projects (11:30)

Maidrite meat sandwiches provided

Drop off your side dishes before 9 am on Sunday morning

God’s Work Our Hands t-shirts – sizes that are left:

5 Adult XX Large 1 Adult XXX Large
1 Adult Medium 2 Youth Mediums
2 Youth Larges