

Faith Lutheran Church

Activities



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INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been written to help our members understand what activities go on here at Faith Lutheran Church.

Please take a look and see the many different ways you can get involved in our church.

Please pray and consider how you can become involved in our church. Without volunteers, none of these activities would be possible.

Any questions you may have can be answered by Pastor Hamp. 519- 745-6422

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INDEX**Page**

Choir	4
Confirmation	5
Adult Catechesis	6
Christmas Families	7
Church Picnic	8
Church Council	9
Elders	10
Ladies Guild	12
FaithLife Financial	14
Faith Tri L	15
Financial & Office positions	17
Lamp & Nicaragua	20
Men's Breakfast	21
Sunday Bible Study	22
Weekday Bible Study	22
Sunday School	23
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	25
Voting Members	26
Worship Board	28

FAITH LUTHERAN CHOIR

We meet Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

We are a group of non-auditioned choir members, who sing at both services approximately every three weeks from September until June.

We are not professional singers, and not everyone can read music. However, we are willing to work together as a team and are ready to learn, and sing to the glory of God.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation (or as we prefer to call it, **Catechesis**, the passing on of the Faith) is a process that follows from Jesus' '*Great Commission*' at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel: ***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.***"

Those who have been baptized into Christ are to be taught constantly what He has done for us, continues to do for us, and will do for us forever. For that reason, we hold special catechetical sessions (or Confirmation classes) that meet every **Thursday evening at 6:30pm** during the school year. Usually the children in these classes are in Grade Six and Seven, but the start time is flexible and can be discussed with parents, who are the primary teachers of their children.

Over two years, we work through the Six Chief Parts of Luther's Small Catechism. These are the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Baptism, Confession and Absolution and the Office of the Keys, and the Sacrament of the Altar.

After taking part in these years of learning, the youth are invited to become communing members of Faith congregation. This is recognized in the rite of Confirmation, which usually takes place in the later spring.

Adult Catechesis

Catechesis is for all ages. While we do not have 'classes' for adults together (due mostly to scheduling difficulties), adults are catechized in the Faith as the pastor takes them through Luther's Small Catechism (sometimes using other resources as well).

For those who wish to join the church and make an evangelical Lutheran confession of faith, or for those who just interested in learning the faith of the Scriptures, catechesis takes place with the pastor in a mutually-agreed time.

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES

Over the past several years, Faith has supported a number of needy families in our community.

We ask our members to help us by taking an item from the list that the family has provided us.

Once you purchase the gift, you need to wrap it and put the tag back on so that we ensure it gets to the right family. We also ask for volunteers to deliver the gifts.

To help make the family have a nice Christmas dinner we provide them with some money that they can use to purchase their grocery items.

CHURCH PICNIC

It has been a tradition at Faith to hold a Church Picnic once a year. This is done in June and marks the first Sunday of the year where we have only one church service on Sunday.

For many years this service has been held at a campsite in the country. It is a wonderful beginning to our Summer Schedule.

We have a church service followed by a pot-blessing lunch with fellowship and games in the afternoon. It has evolved and changed over the years in response to our ever changing congregation and provides a less formal setting to the natural beauty of the world God gave us.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The church Council oversees the regular operations of the functioning of the church. The Council consists of Pastor, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. It also includes the Chairman of each of the following church boards:

- Elders
- Property
- Social Ministry
- Christian Education
- Worship
- Membership
- Stewardship

The council members meet once a month, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports are given. The chairman of each of the above boards reports on any plans, activities or work that is being done by their board. These actions need to be approved by the Council.

Voters' Meetings are held at least twice a year, namely June and December. At these meetings, the Council reports to the Voters Assembly on activities within that time frame. The Voters Assembly will be required to vote and decide on larger expenditures at that time.

ELDERS

Elders meet the 1st. Wednesday of each month (other commitments cause us to meet on Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. with devotional time.

Discussion of membership concerns in all facets of pastoral care, including the concern of members who have not attended church for some time. They are always welcomed back to be a part of our weekly services in order to strengthen their faith as a child of God, through Jesus Christ.

Elders are kept up-to-date in regards to physical well-being of our shut-in and the visitation of others by pastor. Pastor keeps elders informed of other pastoral responsibilities/activities also.

Elders are kept up-to-date in regards to confirmation and confirmands progress through the year. This also includes adult catechumens.

The elders are the liaison between all boards, including church council, that are connected to the FAITH family. This includes LCC auxiliary organizations - Ladies Guild and TRI – L (LLL, Youth, and the Choir).

Elders are kept up-to-date in regards to all concerns members may have, and other issues pertaining to the operation of church and property.

Elders' main purpose is to assist/support the pastor in all aspects of church responsibilities, which includes church services by assisting with the readings, communion and other related duties.

Elders are responsible for viewing and recommending yearly compensation for pastor as well as compensation for other church workers (organist, choir director, office staff) in the annual budget. Their recommendations are given to council for approval.

One elder is assigned to attend each council meeting during the year.

FAITH LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD-LWMLC

Faith Ladies Guild is a fellowship of sisters in Christ, women within the church family serving our Lord wherever our support is needed.

Our meetings take place on the second Saturday in the month beginning in September and conclude in June. The time of our monthly meeting is from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

We gather in Christian fellowship and our meetings often include Bible study, a guest speaker or hands on mission projects and whatever else we are led to do. Most importantly we begin with a devotion, prayer and a hymn is sung.

Some of the ways we are privileged to serve include providing our church family with a lunch following a funeral service.

Our Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale is held in the month of November each year. Although the Ladies Guild hosts the event we are very grateful for the support of the whole congregation.

Our support of a Seminary Student each year gives us the opportunity to encourage and support in prayer, and when possible, have a time of personal contact with the student and his family.

The White Gift offering envelope during the Advent season involves the congregation in a financial gift of support for the student.

As members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada we support the Mission projects that have been selected for the ingathering of Mites which are collected at our meetings and submitted to the National LWMLC.

We also attend conventions, retreats, prayer services and rallies within the Waterloo Zone, Ontario District. The National convention is held in a designated province once every three years.

We have undertaken to participate in gathering medicines for Medical missions and folding bandages, assembling baby layettes, making dresses for children in Haiti, supporting women's shelters, to name a few.

Our mission statement is to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by serving wherever He leads us in our congregation and the world.

An open invitation is extended to all women in the congregation who would like to come and enjoy the wonderful fellowship we share with each other.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHAPTER 74095

FaithLife Financial

Chapter 74095 is a group of FaithLife Financial members who join together to help “build a better world” through faith, fun and fellowship.

Many hands join together to put on activities raising funds for initiatives that matter to Faith Lutheran Church.

The funds that are raised are matched annually up to \$1,500.00 by FaithLife Financial through the Matching Grant Program. Faith Lutheran has raised funds to support things like the “Kids feeding Kids” program in Nicaragua, Mission work in Haiti and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

FaithLife Financial is a Christian not-for-profit member owned financial services organization.

FAITH TRI L – LLL

(Lutheran Laymen's League)

FAITH TRI – LLL was formed in 1985 by a group of interested men and their wives to come together and offer Christian fellowship and support to all members of our church, both singles and couples. Our meetings are held the first Friday of every month at 7:40 pm at the church. All meetings begin with a short vesper like service with a hymn, a homily and prayer.

Our mission is to help the church in “Word and Deed” through charitable offerings of special events such as: Spaghetti Suppers, Birthday Parties, Easter Breakfasts, Chili – cook off and, host the Annual LLL BBQ. Proceeds from the free-will gifts are donated to various organizations. We also help to sponsor the weekly Lutheran Hour Radio Broadcast, “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on CKWR-FM, Waterloo, on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m. One of our major outreach ministry contributions is “The Project Connect” library in the foyer which contains over 200 helpful Christian booklets on many topics relevant to major life issues today.

Any and everyone are welcome to be a part of this outreach ministry. Come out and see what we are all about and join your brothers and sisters in Christ in a most worthwhile endeavour. We also have a lot of fun – and good food!

The Lutheran Laymen's League – Canada (Tri – LLL), is an auxiliary organization of Lutheran Church Canada and is a part of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) whose motto is: “The people of God, with the message of hope!”

The motto of the International LLL is: “Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church”.

FINANCIAL AND OFFICE POSITIONS

Church Accountant shall:

- a. Pay all accounts authorized by the Church Council and or Voter's Assembly
- b. Keep an exact record of all financial transactions of the Congregation in the permanent records provided for that purpose, which shall be and remain the property of the Congregation.
- c. Retain all receipts, vouchers, bank statements until the Auditing Committee has made its report on its annual audit.
- d. Submit reports to the Finance Chair/Treasurer as required.

Financial Secretary shall:

- a. Receive and record all monies of the Congregation and deposit it in the Congregation depository.
- b. Provide a summary of financial reports for the bulletin and newsletter.
- c. Issue statements and receipts as directed by the Finance Chair/Treasurer.

Finance Chair/Treasurer:

- a. Provide a financial report of the Congregation on a monthly basis on operating funds, non-operating funds, and cash balances/investments.
- b. Be knowledgeable or obtain knowledge about church finance and accountability.
- c. Oversee and account for assets and liabilities, according to decisions of the Congregation, in a reasonable, ethical and legal manner.
- d. Supervise timely payment of ordinary operating expenditures, including payroll. For irregular or non-operating expenditures, obtain permission or approval of the appropriate authority.
- e. Supervise the maintenance of records of all income, revenue, receipts, expenses, disbursements, assets and liabilities, especially documents related to loans, mortgages, investments and payroll taxes.
- f. Arrange annually for an audit/review of financial records and processes.
- g. Assist with the financial planning including preparation of the annual budget.

Auditors:

Two auditors are required to review the annual financial records and processes.

This is done on a yearly basis.

Administrative Assistant:

Prepares and prints weekly bulletins and monthly calendars

Documents communion records

Record weekly offerings and issues income tax receipts

Supplies quarterly Sunday School attendance sheets

Weekly Counters:

These are volunteers who work in pairs to count all offerings collected for the week. (Sunday offerings, Lenten, etc).

They track the contributions on a summary sheet and weekly statement.

They prepare the bank deposit slip and may take the deposit to the bank.

Sunday School offerings are counted separately, but use the same procedure.

LAMP and NICARAGUA

LAMP is a mission project wherein a team of volunteers go into a Native Community in Canada. We live in the community for about a week. During this time, we have Bible Camp sessions that include lessons, arts and crafts, games, songs and snacks. We also interact with the youth and have youth nights. For the past seven summers, we have been able to go back to the same community of *Little Grand Rapids*, Manitoba.

Nicaragua - Jane Ford has led several teams of volunteers to Nicaragua for Vacation Bible School.

They have lessons, arts and crafts, games and songs for over 100 children. They also interact with the community and support the churches there.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast has been a tradition at Faith Lutheran Church for quite a number years, instigated by our now sainted brother in Christ (and great cook) George Hartung.

We gather at 8am on the second or third Saturday of the month (check the calendar for details) and enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs, toast, hash browns, and sausage.

Then we take about an hour for Bible Study, working through books of the Bible each year. We conclude by 9:30am so that you can get going on your day!

All men, of every age, are more than welcome!

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

On **Sundays** from September through June, we gather youth and adults together at **9:30am** for an ongoing study of the Scriptures. Topics vary from season to season, but mostly we work through books of the Bible, in order to gain a deeper understanding of our salvation and to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. Since learning the Faith takes a whole lifetime, we encourage all to come to Bible Study on Sundays. You don't have to read or even talk or ask questions (you are welcome to do all three), but this is a great opportunity to learn more of Christ and His Word in a less formal way.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

At various times throughout the year (usually in six or nine week sessions) we gather on **Tuesdays from 1pm to 2:30pm** for more in-depth study of God's Word. We study either a book of the Bible (sometimes using LifeLight or other curriculum helps) or a topic of interest. Often the studies are given out before the session begins, so that some 'homework' can be done ahead of time, which only adds to the questions and discussion when we get together. Watch for a sign-up sheet for these studies on the bulletin board outside the pastor's study.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school is held every Sunday @ 9:30 – 10:30 in the upper Sunday school room

OPENING – together with singing & responses

LESSONS – 20 – 25 minutes

CLOSING – together with prayer and song

Teachers or teacher assistants – commitment is 12 – 13 weeks for one of the following sessions:

- September – November (Fall quarter)
- December – February (Winter quarter)
- March – May (Spring quarter)

Teachers meetings are held one a month (1st Thursday of each month) for lesson preparation with Pastor's guidance.

Program used: Growing in Christ

Teachers Guide: that provides weekly teacher tips, extra activity suggestions, reproducible pages and much more.

Teacher Tools: multi- purpose posters, teachers CD, story- telling props

Student Stuff: creative resources (age appropriate and engaging) help kids learn about God's people and His plan of salvation as it unfolds in the Bible.

Special Times: Rally Sunday in September and the Children's Christmas program in December
Missions: Last Sunday of each month, our offering is given to a chosen project.

Other options: Supply teachers and superintendent assistant are also needed.

We are thankful for all your support. Prayerfully consider supporting your Sunday School program.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

In July or August of each year we run a one week Vacation Bible School for children from nursery to grade six.

VBS is open to any child that wishes to learn about God and the program runs from 9:00 to 11:30 am each day.

We have many activities throughout the morning which include:

- Opening with prayer and song
- Bible Lessons
- Music
- Crafts
- Games
- Snack
- Closing with prayer and song

We choose a mission that the children can relate to (ie: Children feeding children program in Nicaragua, Feeding children in Rancheria) and any money raised through offerings will be sent to our designated mission.

All of our teachers, helpers, musicians, cooks, leaders, crafters etc are all volunteers. We are always in need of many hands as we need a minimum of 20 volunteers to cover the main positions.

VOTING MEMBERS

1. You must be a communicant member of the congregation who has been confirmed and reached the age of 18.
2. The perspective Voting member is to attend the next Voters' meeting where the Chairman will present a motion to the assembly to accept the communicant member as a voting member. The newly voted member does not have the right to vote at the meeting in which they have been accepted into membership.
3. It is the duty of every voting member to attend the Voters' Assemblies customarily held twice a year. A voter shall participate in the business of the Voters' Assembly. By not attending they have waived the right to cast a vote.
4. Only a voting member is eligible to hold an office on Church Council according to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
5. Voting membership ceases with the cessation of communicant membership at Faith.
6. A member is also deprived of the right to vote when absent 8 consecutive regular Voters' meetings. A reminder is sent after the member has been absent from six consecutive times as a reminder of this provision.

7. The right to vote shall be restored to any member otherwise in good standing after having again been accepted as a voting member according to the Constitution and By-Laws provisions.
8. You do not have to be a voting member to attend a Voters' meeting.
9. If you cannot attend a voters meeting, you may send the Secretary your regrets and this absence would not count against you.

THE WORSHIP BOARD

The Worship Board ensures the availability of all necessary materials (wine, wafers, communion cards, offering envelopes, etc.) for worship and that all services are conducted properly and in order.

Committee members divide responsibilities throughout the year, including the recruitment of ushers for all services. To that end, the usher calendar is posted prominently in the narthex. Assistance with this pleasant and rewarding task is always appreciated.

Meetings are held in the fall and the spring, and additionally as necessary.

The Worship Board also has representation at all council meetings and voters' meetings.

For the Christmas season, the sanctuary is decorated by the Worship Board.