

Voice of Faith

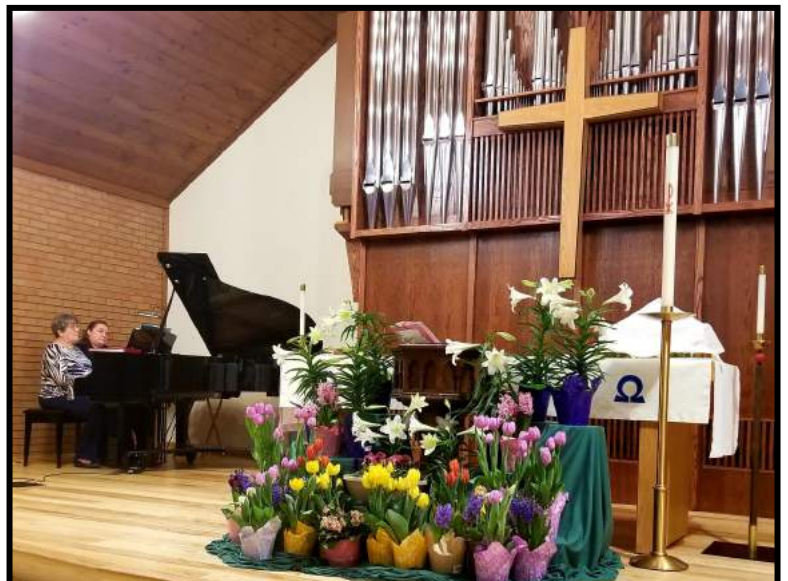
May 2018

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA
1245 North Second
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Web site: www.faithseward.org



Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church,
Seward, NE

Worship Sundays at 9:15 am
Sunday School 10:45 am



MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 1-4pm Faithful Piece-makers 7pm - Confirmation	3 1pm - Congo Life Meeting 7pm - Worship and Music Meeting	4	5
6 9:15am Worship 10:45am - Sunday School for all ages	7	8 7pm - FLC Council Meeting	9 1-4pm Faithful Piece-makers 5-8pm - Church Directory Photos 7pm - Confirmation	10	11 11:45am FLC Local Lunch at Café on the Square	12 8-10am - FLC staffs the Recycling Center 5-8pm - Church Directory Photos
13 9:15am Worship 10:45am - Sunday School for all ages 10:45am - 3rd Year Confirmation	14	15	16 1-4pm Faithful Piece-makers 7pm - Confirmation	17	18 6-9pm - FLC Game and Pizza Night	19 City Wide Garage Sales - here at FCL!
20 9:15am Worship 10:45am - Last Day of Sunday School for all ages God's Work, Our Hands	21	22 9-4 WIC Clinic Day at Faith	23 1-4pm Faithful Piece-makers	24	25	26
27 9:15am Worship	28 Memorial Day	29	30 1-4pm Faithful Piece-makers	31		AA meets weekly at Faith Lutheran on Sundays at 7pm and Tuesdays at 7:30pm
NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY						



The Voice of Faith

Many years ago, I had a life-changing experience. I already knew “all about Jesus,” and was attending church regularly, serving on committees, doing my part. But I had a growing dissatisfaction with life. I started expecting some kind of change to come from God, if God really loved me, and I’m sure having that expectation helped a lot. When people don’t expect good things from God, don’t turn to God in times of trouble, to gain peace from God’s love and power to save, (don’t treat God as God), it’s difficult to see God working or hear God speaking.

And that had been my problem up to then. But I went on a 3-day “Great Banquet” weekend, and there, God showed up, big time. It wasn’t like a hologram or something. God “shows up” in and through God’s people, doing what God does, loving each other. And I realized how self-focused I was, and how opposite from Jesus that is, and how blind and deaf I had been to God’s presence and what God had been telling me all along.

So I made a deal with God (I was still in this arrogant humans-have-control mode, but God even worked with that). I confessed how blind and deaf I was, and promised to walk through the next door that opened, counting on God to control that door. Next thing I knew, I was being invited to take part in a prison ministry called Kairos. That was the last thing I expected, but a deal is a deal. So I went.

Kairos Prison Ministry is essentially a “Great Banquet” or “Walk to Emmaus” behind bars. And if I, who already knew (in my head) that God loved me, felt a tremendous impact of God’s love (in my heart), imagine the impact on inmates of finding out that the God they thought hated them, actually loved them (“your Daddy wants you back”).

Sharing the Gospel, through story and love (not theological argument), instead of being something to avoid (in fear of conflict), became a blessing, because of the positive impact it had on people. It became my drug, and I was addicted. I needed to share the Gospel in a way that still drives me. And here’s the irony: that’s all Jesus means when he says, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to do what I have commanded you.” (which is to love). Jesus calls ALL Christians (his disciples) to do this. And anyone who has ever felt good because of helping someone, has experienced God working through them. It’s a blessing.

This experience also impacted me as I considered a call to professional ministry. But I still had a concern that, if I became a pastor, I would actually be less available to share the Gospel outside the congregation. My encouragement was that, since I had been brought along in this journey by church leaders, perhaps I could do the same for someone else. And these thoughts made it a priority for me to be sure to not let ministry TO the church get in the way of the ministry OF the church, to the world. And so, I am extremely busy outside of our congregation.

Recently, I had the opportunity to be part of Kairos Prison Ministry again, as it started up in Nebraska. We have completed the first weekend at Nebraska State Penitentiary, and now begins the business of building community, the Body of Christ, inside the prison. I appreciate the congregation’s support, but I also challenge each of you, not to engage in prison ministry per se, but to find the means God HAS ALREADY given you for sharing the Gospel, and by which God wants to bless you in doing.

Walk to Emmaus is (unfortunately) known primarily as a weekend ministry, but that is not the point. The point is the community that forms and is intentional in supporting each other in the life to which God has called each of us. The Heartland Faithful Walk to Emmaus community, centered in Omaha, has weekends coming up later this year. It is a great opportunity to get to know God in a way you never have before, and explore God's calling. You are invited.

Pastor Rob



Changing Hearts
Transforming Lives
Impacting the World

... I was in Prison, and you visited me. (Matthew 25:36)

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry of men and women volunteers that brings the light, love and friendship of Jesus Christ into the lives of prisoners.. The Kairos programs take the participants on a journey that demonstrates the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts, transform lives and impact the world. Hearts are change, prisons are less violent, recidivism rates are reduced, and communities are safer.

VISION

A Community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment reaching all impacted by incarceration, through the love, hope, and faith found in Jesus Christ.

MISSION

The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

CORE VALUES

Kairos is a Lay led, Christ Centered Ministry. We are Christians who believe in the Holy Trinity and honor and live the teachings of the Bible and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We invite all to attend as Participants in Weekends and program-specific follow-up activities to build Christian Community. We empower Guests or Participants to be accountable for their lives and be transformed by Jesus Christ. We believe in the importance of enabling relationships to build community, thus our model includes the Weekend experience followed by Guests or Participants gathering regularly for accountability, support, and prayer. The full complement of the well-defined returning model is necessary for the community to prosper. We believe in respecting each person with dignity while modeling Christ's love. We practice 'Listen, Listen, Love, Love.'

More information can be found at:

<http://mykairos.org/directory5ne.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/Kairos-of-Nebraska-1579540382082549/>

Sharing God's Bounty

Giving Sacrificially



A husband and wife who were traveling around the world saw a boy in Korea one day pulling a crude plow in a field, while an old man held the plow handles and directed it through the rice paddy. The husband was amused by the sight and took a snapshot of the scene.

"That's very curious," he remarked to the missionary who was their interpreter and guide. "I suppose they are poor."

"Yes," said the missionary. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money, so they sold the only ox they had and gave the money to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves."

The husband and wife were silent. Then the wife said, "That was a real sacrifice."

"They did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

The two tourists had little to say, but, when they reached home, they took the photograph to the church and told their pastor about the incident. "We want to double our pledge to the church," they said, "and give us some plow work to do. We never knew what gratitude or joy or sacrifice really meant until now."

God spoke to this couple through their experience in Korea about the joy that comes from giving. In his Word, God speaks to all of us about the importance of giving. Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35). He also said, "*Freely you have received, freely give.*" (Matthew 10:8). If we choose not to give faithfully and generously, we forego the blessings that God gives to those who give cheerfully. There is no better time than now to examine your level of giving, and, if need be, to take a leap of faith and increase your giving. In the words of Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

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VOLUNTEER WORK DAY!!

Join us at Carol Joy Holling's annual Work Day! We need your help to get our site ready for the over 1,500 campers that will be arriving during the summer. Bring friends and family for a day of work in God's creation!

Individuals and groups are welcome, and all skill levels are needed. Please bring clothes that can get dirty, close-toed shoes and gloves. Kids are welcome

with parent supervision.

Day of Schedule:

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Work begins
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Work continues
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Depart

Go to:

<https://www.caroljoyholling.org/work-day>
for more information and to register

Congregational Corner

Nebraska Community Blood Drive April 18th at Faith was a great drive. We saw 42 donors and collected 41 units of blood. That helps 123 people. Faith donors are Ron W, Maralee and John M, Janice H, Carol S, Jeanette R, Don R, Paul N, Sheila B, Jannine and Brian L, and Amber R. Thanks to all that attended. The next drive is June 20, noon to 5PM.

FROM PARISH ED: The last day of Sunday School is May 20, which will be a **God's Work, Our Hands** Sunday.

Stay tuned for announcements about summer activities such as Art Week (page 10) and Vacation Bible School!



April 22nd was the Confirmation date for Audrey and Samantha. Both of these young ladies were also baptized here at Faith.

For their Confirmation Projects, they both took on helping their neighbors. Samantha chose to host a donation drive for Blue Valley and collected a wide variety of much needed foods and personal care items.

Audrey chose to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Global Farm Challenge. She raised money to help a farming family in another country to be able to purchase farm animals, plants and training so they can support themselves.



Easter Flowers

The beautiful assortment of Spring Flowers for the Easter Altar were donated by the following:



April W

In memory of Edna H

Jane H

In memory of Harold and Paula H; Gary, Lois, Velma and Edgar H

John & Maralee M

Walt and Lois H and Marvin and Eileen M

Kathy M

In memory of her parents

Don & Pam R

*In memory of Laverne R
Clyde & Helen Marie B*

Al & Sue K

In memory of Loved Ones

Jeanette R

In memory of her husband, son, great grandson, and parents. And in honor of her children and families

Maggie E

In memory of her husband, and her parents

Sheila B

In memory of Jaxson, David and Dean

John and Janice H

In memory of loved ones and in honor of their daughters

The H Family

In memory of Norah

Joyce B

In memory of Daniel B

Tim & Rachel P

In memory of their parents

...and several others who brought flowers in memory of their loved ones.



EASTER BREAKFAST

Special thanks to the Men of Faith (and a few good women) who prepared, cooked, flipped, scrambled, served and cleaned up the delicious Easter Breakfast.



We Give Thanks and Praise For....

*Our very meaningful Holy Week Services:

- Our Palm Sunday processional with the palms reminding us of Jesus riding the donkey into Jerusalem.
- The Maundy Thursday service featured red felt hearts that Pastor Rob passed around. We were invited to wear them in our shoes, reminding us that Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet and we should serve others as well. We are the hands and feet of Jesus. We should do as He does and love people, too!
- The Good Friday service had six readings and hymns with a candle being extinguished after each reading by our two acolytes Anna K. and Samantha L. The cross was rolled up the aisle by Tom H. and Jeff M. and was draped with a black cloth by Jannine L.
- The Easter Vigil was a service of word and song.
- The Easter Service had a message of hope and hope changes everything! Plus we had uplifting hymns, special music "Rise Again" by Todd & Kelli K., along with Maralee & Kelli's annual duet of the "Hallelujah Chorus."

*The always delicious Easter Breakfast that was made and served by our FLC men for the 6th year in a row! Thanks to

Don, Doyle, Paul B., Paul N., Jeff, Tom, Mick, Al, John M., Cal, Gym, Robin and Pastor Rob. Thanks to our VP, Joni, for being the official sausage server and to Vicki for the spring table decorations. The Breakfast raised \$263 and was presented to Pastor Rob to help fund his Kairos weekend.

*The fourteen families who provided over 30 Easter lilies, tulips, hyacinths, and pansies to decorate the chancel. Thanks to our two mother/daughter teams, Sheila B. & Jeanette and Chris & Eldeen, for arranging them so nicely.

*The offerings from the Lenten meals and services totaled \$1,855.41 which will be given to the ELCA to be designated for the youth from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to attend the National Youth Gathering.

*The 10 hard-working people who came to trim trees and shrubs on the church grounds for the April 5th work night. We thank Ron and Annette, Cal, Paul N., Doyle and Pam G., Gym, Don, John M. and Morgan (a neighbor). Paul N. also smoothed out the rock on the parking lot.

*Mick C. who washed ALL the windows at church, both inside and out. Wow, thanks a million, Mick!

*The 10 FLC members who attended the Heart of Camp Gala in LaVista on April 7. This Gala ensures that all children have the ability to attend Camp Carol Joy Holling. This year \$185,000 was raised. Those attending the event were Doyle and Pam G., Kyle and Allison J., John and Maralee M., Maggie E., Paul N., and Don and Pam R. Thanks to Don and Pam for sponsoring a table.

*Don Carr from Kansas City was our guest organist on April 15. He presented a wonderful organ recital in the afternoon. The free will offering was taken to benefit the work of the Seward Ministerial Association. Thanks to the ladies who brought treats for the cookie reception – Kathy M., Pam R., Cindy F., Denise A., Sue K., Rachel P., Jeanette R., & Carol S.

*Our two confirmands who reaffirmed their baptism on April 22nd – Audrey Belew and Samantha Liska. Audrey's confirmation project was to raise money for the ELCA World Hunger Global Farm challenge. Samantha's project was to host a donation drive for Blue Valley Community

Continued on next page...

Action. Totals will be reported next month.

*The cake reception and decorations in the Fellowship Hall for the confirmands was done by Congo Life and Parish Ed.

*All the wonderful music that was shared for Confirmation Day by Kurt's Krew and especially the four beautiful songs sung by our 19 Faithful Choir members. It was a very inspirational service!

*Paul N., Kathy M., and Carol S. for visiting our Prayer Partner church, St. Mark's Lutheran in Valley, NE., on April 8th.

*Pastor Rob for participating in the Kairos Prison Ministry weekend. Special thanks to our Sunday School kids for making placemats with inspiring words of love, hope and friendship. Pastor delivered them to use at the Kairos weekend.

*75 members of the Concordia Football team and coaching staff volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity's event called "A Brush with Kindness." They scraped paint, raked the yard and moved dirt. And when they were done, they came over to Faith and ate 33 pizzas! Thanks to Don R. and Carol S. for helping with the project and serving the pizzas.

WORSHIPFUL ARTS WEEK

This is a special week for children (5 year olds / Kindergarten - 5th graders) to engage actively in creative arts surrounding the worship setting to include music, body, and both of the 2D/3D visual arts.

June 4th to the 8th (Monday to Friday) from 9:30-12noon each day that week. We will use mixed age groups for four rotation times, of a half hour each to allow for breaks/travel time as well.

There are registration forms in the Narthex.

From the Desk of the Treasurer:



AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS: Don't forget about the option of on-line giving through Vanco as a one-time offering or as an Automatic withdrawal especially during this busy upcoming Summer Season! It's easy - go to our website, www.faithseward.org and click on the "Online Giving" tab! Even if you can't make it to church, your contribution can!

Prayer Requests

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Spencer – Brain tumor. Praise and thanks for the improvement in eyesight.

Bonnie & Dan -Bonnie has cancer (brother & sister-in-law of Robin)

Charlie – Now in Hospice care (Maralee's Cousin)

Duane – health concerns and in need of a kidney donation

Baby Carson –Multiple Health concerns

Barb – Cancer Treatments (Don's sister)

Bob – Cancer Treatments

Bo – seizure disorder (toddler son of Beth's friends)

Bonnie – dealing with cancer (Friend of Linda)

Janet – Cancer Treatments and intestinal surgery (sister-in-law of Jim)

Amy – Cancer treatments (April's cousin)

Steve – Cancer treatments (family friend of April)

Mary Ann – in rehabilitation hospital (April's Aunt)

Louis – Health problems (cousin of Joyce)

Rita - Recently diagnosed with cancer (cousin of Joyce)

Pam – Broken leg (Kathy's sister)

Huong – recovering from a stroke (friend of Chris)

Delores – Health and discouragement concerns (friend of Pastor Rob)

Shawn - entering addiction treatment (relative of Cindy)

Marci – Stage 4 cancer (friend of Kathy)

Adrian – hip replacement surgery (Heather's father)

Don – Hospitalized with pneumonia (friend of Eldeen)

† Family of Sally D

† Family of Larry K

Serving in the Military:

Josh A– Deployed to an unspecified area.

Matt A – Deployed to Iraq



Congratulations to the Confirmands and their wonderful moms.