

The Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

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April, 2026



Grace, mercy and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today I watched a video from the Secretary of War concerning chaplains. The Secretary has made one of his priorities the strengthening of the chaplain corps as the spiritual and religious experts.

For many years now the role of chaplain has been seen as little more than a counselor to help you manage problems. Our faith, while not being denied was definitely encouraged to be in background, not front and center. We were often seen as morale officers rather than shepherds of faith.

Those of us who saw ourselves as missionaries and religious teachers had to find creative ways to bring our faith into the forefront. When I would talk to first time airmen I would encourage them to work out their faith, as they could be called upon to lay down their life in war at any point. I then proceeded to explain my faith and what I believed.

I used the acronym -ISM, Identity, Security and Meaning.

I would tell them that my Identity is as a Baptized child of God, adopted into the family of God, where my sins are forgiven through Christ who died for me.

My Security is closely tied to my Identity, I am secure because I am a Baptized child of God, He keeps me safe in the palm of His hand and promises me peace.

My Meaning is tied to my Identity and Security. Because I am a Baptized Child of God and in His loving care I serve Him in all that I say and do, which gives my life meaning.

I would then encourage them to be as sure of their faith as I was. I would say mine is highly organized and unified, but theirs may not be. If they had questions or didn't know what they believed, I would be happy to talk with them.

I was able to speak about my faith clearly, while encourage all faith groups to think about theirs.

My task has become a little easier with the new directives laid out by the Secretary. He reemphasized an old idea that we are chaplains first and secondly officers. This means we do not fit in the command structure in traditional ways. To emphasize this he has given a directive that we are to replace our rank insignias, (ie. 1st Lt, 2nd Lt, Captain, Major, Lt Col, Col) with our faith insignias. This is to help the entire military see us as chaplains first. They can discuss spiritual matters with us without the hesitation that rank sometimes causes.

The Secretary made it clear that chaplains have a holy calling, even saying we have been called and ordained to serve God and our fellow military members. Please pray for our military and for our chaplains that they might be bold in their proclamation of the Gospel. God's peace be with you. Amen.

Pastor Poock



HAPPENINGS AT FAITH

WOMEN OF FAITH

Please join us the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 9—11:30 for making quilts, crocheting shawls and wonderful fellowship!

Help is needed to put together and sew quilts.

Donations received from our quilts displayed in November are used to purchase toys for Christmas for the Redlands Christian Migrant Assoc. Head Start Program.

Questions? Please call Nancy Kendall at 941-545-3360



Capernaum Home Schooling invites our members and friends to a **Thank You brunch** of breakfast snacks after the 10:30 Divine Service on **Sunday, April 26**. Please remember to sign up on the blue table in the Narthex to give them a count for food preparation.

Prayer Warriors

The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. Our church is a church of prayer. If you would like to join this ministry contact Eloise Schwarz at Eloise6376@gmail.com and prayer requests will be emailed to you as they are received.



During Lent, no flowers are set on the Altars as we prepare for Jesus's journey to the Cross. During this season we listen and dwell on His message of forgiveness and love for all sinners. **Palm Sunday** begins our remembrance of His march into Jerusalem with palm branches. We celebrate His resurrection on Easter with an array of lilies [available for \$20.00 in memory/honor of someone]. Thereafter flowers may be ordered weekly to beautify our Lord's House. I thank you humbly for your generosity in creating an awesome church where we can worship our Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour and thank Him for all He has done for us. Eloise



Church Council Minutes
March 10th, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Glen Collier, Pastor Pooch, Larry Colton, Greg Wissner, Alec Carpp, Alex Boettcher, Eloise Schwarz, Dorothy Swain

Call to Order: by Greg Wissner 6:00 pm

Devotions: Reading of Luke 11 by Pastor Pooch and he then led by prayer.

Secretary: no report

Treasurer: Not present. Financial statements for February were emailed.

Financial Secretary: Alex will give historical reports when he can get on the church computer.

Pastor Pooch: Our new Fiber optic is working as of today. Bible class, confirmation class, Lenten services all going well. Thank you for Pastor Kramp for covering for Pastor Pooch. We are looking to upgrade our A/V equipment with video to use for recording our services and classes and possible podcasts.

Vice President: All well.

President: All well.

Outreach: Glen has contacted the Banner people regarding the new sign. He is looking into the correct color for it. Also to work with 4H and have a meeting with RCMA.

Elders: We welcome our new elder, Blaine Schmidt.

LWML: Successful Lenten meal was enjoyed by all; we are continuing to collect for Kids Closet through the end of March. We are hosting the Lenten meal also on March 18th for all, and Spring Rally in Sarasota is on March 21st. Sign up and join us!

Trustees: Not present.

Altar Guild: Members may order Easter Lillies for \$20.00. The last Lenten meal is our Chili Cookoff on March 25th. Palm branches have been ordered for members.

Glen made motion to reline the chalice with Gold and Alex seconded it. The motion passed.

New Business: Re: Faith Lutheran Church Congregational Assistance Program (FLCCAP). Larry Colton has concerns that the bylaws are restrictive, and it takes weeks to get a check cut for people. Some areas need to be updated, and the process needs to be more streamlined.

There was a discussion about a change in our accounting system. Alex will be a CPA soon and offered to take over the church account. Discussion on this will continue.

Old Business: Review of By-Law changes and having a special meeting to move the annual meeting to November because December is very busy. Alex will talk with the elders regarding the by-laws. Alec will update.

Adjournment with Prayer: 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Swain

Lutheran Women in Mission

Following our LWML Bible Study & Meeting on Friday, March 13, Carli introduced our speaker from LIMM, Sharon Thomas. It was an uplifting presentation of the mission work being accomplished throughout the world.

LIMM *Lutherans in Medical Missions* LIMM@limm.org

A special guest from LIMM flew to FL to made her acquaintance with our Faith-filled women on Friday, March 13th. **Sharon Thomas** of Belvidere Illinois, the Executive Director and RN/ED, filled our eyes and ears with mesmerizing words of medical missions from many of the regions of the world she/they have traveled. Their teams serve as the hands and feet of Jesus by bringing hope, care and the love of Jesus Christ to those in need.

Partnering with sponsors, she works to bring to life medical clinics of every kind necessary. Speaking at conventions, symposiums, and individuals she meets along the way, she hopes to network in matching those with needs to those willing to support these specific activities. The Gospel is everywhere in this ministry, even if it is through injections, free prescriptions, reading glasses and so much more.



Handouts about LIMM can be found on the purple table if interested.

*LIMM is an RSO of the LCMS, not-for-profit tax-exempt organization

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, April 10 at 10:00 am**. We will be electing President and Secretary for the coming two years after our Bible Study and Meeting and then packing HOPE SEEDS. Please invite your friends to come and join us in this worthwhile project. We will have a light lunch following the packing of seeds. PLEASE sign up on the LWML table so we have a count for how much food we will need.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR CURRENCY and/or CHANGE CONTRIBUTION TO MITES. (Please NO half-dollars, foreign coins or objects, or really dirty coins).



Rooted

Like most district presidents, I am knee deep in convention planning. The Missouri District convention will convene in June under the theme "Rooted" based on Colossians 2:7. *Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

How appropriate that our theme is "Rooted". Saxon Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1839 planted their roots in Perry County, Missouri. They established a new church body in America seeking the freedom to practice Lutheranism. They built a school, the Log Cabin College, to provide a Christian education for their children, which later became the first college and seminary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. They left a lasting legacy, rooted in Christ.

As the Saxon Germans before us, Lutheran Women in Mission Missouri District will join in fellowship in June standing firmly rooted in our relationship with Christ. We will boldly acknowledge Jesus Christ as the source of life for eternity and we will grow and bloom to the Glory of God rooted in Christ. I can hardly wait!

Marian Hoehner
Lutheran Women in Mission Missouri District President

EASTER LILIES

Thanks to all who requested Lilies to help
make our Altar beautiful for the Risen Lord.



Ron & Diane Durham, *in Memory of*
Parents, Joe & Sally and Gene & Marguerite, Our Grandparents and Loved Ones.

Margaret Greenslade, *in Memory of* Loving Family Members.

Jeannette Hinman, *in Memory of* David and Parents.

Chuck Moore, *in Memory of* Debbie Moore and Del & Sue Moore.

Paulette Natzke, *in Memory of* My husband and Parents.

John & Joy Pope, *in Honor of* Daniel & Ruth Pope.

Deanna Roberts, *in Memory of* Ethan Gibney, beloved Son-in-Law.

Edie Saari, *in Memory of* Gerald (Jerry) Saari.

Blaine Schmidt, *in Memory of* My Loving Mother, Janet Schmidt.

Carl & Eloise Schwarz, *in Memory of* Our Sainted Family Members in Heaven.

Judy Shrader, *in Memory of* Ruth Shrader.

Jeff, Robin & Jacob Snell, *in Memory of* Nikolaus Adam Snell.

Dick Werner, *in Honor of* Our Risen Lord.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 5 Paulette Stoddard
- 6 Tony Bowen
- 8 John Reid
- 10 Alec Carpp
- 12 Ruth Pope
- 14 Colby Pooch
- 15 Richard Wormald
- 16 Lois Vanderbeck
- 19 Sarah Biebl
- 21 Kelvin Rodriguez
- 22 Crissia Reay
- 24 Linda McKeag
- 25 Ed Shrader
- 28 Mark Fluegge
- 30 Louis Courtney, Katie Gardner



Special Birthday Blessings to
Ruth Pope on her 95th and Lois Vanderbeck on her 100th
Birthday



- 16 Richard & Barbara Wormald (55 years)
- 23 George & Carol Priest (60 years)
- 26 Joe & Sally James (17 years)
- 26 Thomas & Renee Kaczmarek (23 years)
- 29 Dr. Krishan & Barbara Nayyar (50 years)





This Month's Privileged Servants

Altar Guild

April 2 Maundy Thursday Eloise Schwarz
 April 3 Good Friday NO communion

Sundays, 8:00 am 10:30 am

April 5 Meta Green Gwyn Pooch
 April 12 Martha Riedl Cindy Nuetzel
 April 19 Martha Riedl Gwyn Pooch
 April 26 Ginger Kramp Cindy Nuetzel

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

April 8 Eloise Schwarz
 April 15 Karen Hill
 April 22 Robin Parkin
 April 29 Eloise Schwarz

Elders

April 2 Maundy Thursday 5:00 pm Norm Bothun 7:00 pm Dennis Steinke
 April 3 Good Friday 5:00 pm Norm Bothun 7:00 pm Caleb Pooch

Sundays, 8:00 am.

April 5 Tom Weiss
 April 12 Dennis Steinke
 April 19 Tom Weiss
 April 26 Dennis Steinke

10:30 am.

Norm Bothun
 Caleb Pooch
 Norm Bothun
 Caleb Pooch

Assistant

Wednesdays, 5:00 pm.

Assistant

April 8 Norm Bothun
 April 15 Blaine Schmidt
 April 22 Blaine Schmidt
 April 29 Blaine Schmidt

COUNTERS: April 5 Larry Colton, Paulette Stoddard, Ann Colton
 April 12 Judy Sattanno, Stu Lindberg, Greg Wissner
 April 19 Marilyn Howard, Nancy Kendall, Marti Katterhenry
 April 26 Nancy Kendall, Paulette Stoddard, Ann Colton

Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...



Bible Study

Bible Classes & Sunday School

Our **Sunday Bible Class** meets at **9:15 am** in the Great Hall led by Pastor Pooch. We are learning about in depth meaning of the scripture readings. *Come and have a cup of coffee with the group and join in the discussions.* The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at Concordia Seminary.

Pastor also leads a **Bible Study on Wednesdays** at 3:30 and 6:30 pm in the Great Hall.

The 3:30 study is on the book of Exodus. Come and learn and then stay for the 5 pm. Divine Service.

The 6:30 study The Book of Concord.

Please remember: There **will NOT be** Bible Study and 5:00 pm Divine Service on Wednesday, April 2nd. This is Holy Week and we have two services at 5 and 7 pm for Maundy Thursday (April 2) and two services at 5 and 7 pm. for Good Friday (April 3).

We will invite new members into Faith Lutheran on Sunday, May 3, 2026.





COMFORT ZONE

“...like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions” Deuteronomy 32:11

It's comfortable to stay in one place and not have to move or do anything different in our daily lives. Thinking of the past and all that has been accomplished, it seems good to be here right now, but that little sixth sense always keeps calling for something more. Perhaps God is calling for a higher Christian walk, one that relies on a move that take us from earth-bound to airborne. The eagle is God's noblest creature may be a good example for thinking of the 'comfort zone', we all prefer these days. When eagles are young, their parents are attentive and keep the little eaglets warm and dry, in a nice soft nest lined with feather down, rabbit fur and other comfort zone materials. Once the eaglets being maturing and have all their feathers, the parents 'stir up the nest' to remove the soft materials, which reveal what is hidden below – thorny branches and other uncomfortable materials. That forces the eaglets to stand on their own feet, strengthening their muscles, and talons they will need to fly.

Do we like and need to leave our comfort zones? Do the eaglets want to leave their family nest? Maybe not... The mother eagle will push them out of the nest to get things going...in case they don't grasp the concept of their first flight, the father eagle will swoop down under them to catch them on his strong wings. After a few tries, they soon can fly on their own.

Actually, eagles don't fly.... They soar. God gave them an ability to discern wind currents. They stay put until the right breeze comes along, then they just let go, and soar with the wind. They lock their wings in place and soar higher and higher on the currents.

Other birds are afraid of storms; eagles look for the storms because the wind forces them to soar higher and higher.

God is always calling us to higher grounds, even by stirring our nests or even yanking us out of the nests. He promises “Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired; they will walk and not become weary.”

Isaiah 40:31



If you are a [northern snowbird](#) and returning to your northern home, please complete a form found on the Narthex blue table telling us your northern address and plans for returning. Thank you.

World's most traveled mail dog – did you know there was one? Back in the late 1880's a scruffy little mutt fell asleep on some mailbags at a post office in Albany, NY. The clerks let him stay and named him **Owney**. Soon he was riding with mailbags across the country with the Railway Mail Services (RMS). In 1895, Owney traveled with mailbags on steam ships to Asia and across Europe. RMS clerks adopted him as their mascot and began to record the dog's travels with medals and tags attached to his collar. They weighed down on his collar, so he was given a jacket to display all of his trophies. Owney has long since passed, but an exhibit at the National Postal Museum commemorates his travels around the world with the U.S. Mail. <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/owney>

*Thank you all for your continued support for our Used Stamp Ministry here at
Faith Lutheran - Eloise*



FOOD BARREL DONATIONS

Larry Colton is volunteering his time to work with the United Methodist Church of Parrish to provide for homeless and needy families here in Manatee County who need paper products and food items. Larry will be delivering our food barrel items to the Methodist Church weekly. Please be generous and let's keep the FOOD BARREL overflowing.





Thank You

Lenten Meals:

We are delighted with the response from Volunteers and Attendance at our Wednesday Lenten Meals.

The first Wednesday Lenten Meal was hosted by **Church Council & Fellowship**. It consisted of a variety of soups, sandwiches and desserts. Very special thanks to Greg Wissner for washing dishes and helping with clean-up.

Wednesday, March 4th the ladies of **LWML** hosted a meal of 3 soups, sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 11th was hosted by **Altar Guild**. They had 3 delicious soups, sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 18th was hosted by the ladies of **LWML**. They provided varieties of soups, assorted sandwiches and desserts.

Wednesday, March 25th was hosted by the **Church Council & Fellowship**. They also had a variety of chilis along with sandwiches and desserts. Congratulations to Bob Gardner for winning the \$25.00 Gift Card to Publix for his winning Chili.

Hope all who attended enjoyed their light suppers and will join us again for our Advent Light Suppers. If you have any ideas or concerns, please make Eloise Schwarz aware of them.

Sincere thanks to the many volunteers who stepped in and helped with the clean-up each week.



Faith's FIRST CHILI-COOK-OFF

2026 will go down as a historical year for our first commendable cook-off.

Despite a few stumbling blocks, it was both colorful and tasty. With four delicious soups to sample for just the right blend of ingredients, and to complement the numerous condiments, our members delivered their long-awaited answer. No one knew the chef's names since the servers were not the makers of the chilis. Which one of the slow cookers contained the best tasting chili?

Who would be chosen the best chili tasting Winner?

Bob Gardner Won! Congratulations

Thank you all for entering and enjoying our last Lenten supper of 2026

