

# Matters of Faith

**Saturday Worship 3:00 pm**

**1001 5th Street Int'l. Falls, Mn**

**218-283-2486**



Something is different as I look out my windows. I can't see any big piles of snow! The neighbor's roof doesn't have any ice hanging off it. Dare I declare it SPRING? The calendar says I can but somehow I'm not sure. The air still has a nip to it, even when the wind is out of the south. The reality is while it is April there is still the possibility of snow and more ice. That's just the way it is.

However one thing I can do and know I am right is declare the Good News that Easter is coming. Soon we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Morning and celebrate it as fulfilling the promise of God that our sins will be forgiven and we can rejoice and give thanks. But let us not forget that just as we may have to drive through more snow and cold weather, before spring really comes, we must pass through the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The joy of Easter is brought to us at a price of betrayal, suffering and death. The price that was paid because people refused and still refuse to be faithful to God and obey God's orders on how we are to live and how we are to treat each other. On Good Friday Christ is proclaimed Messiah, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Just a few days later one of his own followers betrayed him and he is arrested in the middle of the night. Then he is tortured and beaten and died a painful death, all for our sake and then raised from the tomb by the love of God not only for him but for us.

What will be our response to this? For many the Saturday before Easter will be celebrated perhaps by breakfast with the Easter Bunny. There will be Easter Egg Hunts and parties. Don't get me wrong I'm not wild about marshmallow chicks and rabbits but nothing is better than malted milk chocolate Easter eggs. My concern is that we, in our rush to get to Easter overlook the events of Thursday and Friday. Far too many folks take salvation for granted because they have completed their tradition's check list for what must be done for it to happen and forget that being faithful to God means much more. We are called to be faithful to God's way in how we live out our lives in this world, as if we are already in heaven.

By the way how many of you realize that Easter is another symbol of how the Christian Church is divided in the modern world? While we will celebrate Easter on Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Millions of Christians around the world won't celebrate Easter until Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>. Christians in the various Orthodox traditions around the world use a different calendar to figure out when the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter took place and celebrate Easter one week later than those that trace their traditions back to the Roman Church. Many of the traditions of the Orthodox are different from ours but the meaning is the same and I believe we should be aware of them and respect them.

At this Holy time of year that is an important thing for all of us to remember. There has never been a united church where everyone agreed on what we as Christians are to believe according to God. Despite the traditional and historic creeds of the church that are supposed to spell out what all Christians must believe, the fact that there is more than one and efforts continue to reword them, should remind us differences remain between various traditions. And like the different dates of Easter, the differences come about because different people understand the Word of God in different ways and that people's creations, like different calendars create differences in the church that should all be respected even if we don't personally agree with them. Have a Happy Easter!! *Pastor John*

# April 2019

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>9</b> 10: Finance Meeting	<b>10</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>11</b> 12:Elephant Eaters 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b><i>Maundy Thurs.</i></b> 9:Men'sClub VoyagerRest. 11:30 Council Mtg. 1:30pm Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b><i>Good Friday</i></b>	<b>20</b> <b><i>Holy Saturday</i></b> 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
<b>21</b> <b><i>Easter</i></b> 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>25</b> 10:Evangelism &Membership Committee 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts				

# May 2019 (tentative)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	<b>9</b> 12:Elephant Eaters 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b>  2:00pm MayAnn Kalar's Piano Recital	<b>13</b> 5-6:30pm Ruby'sPantry	<b>14</b> 10: Finance Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16.</b> 11:30 Council Mtg. 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 3:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe 6:00pm Girl Scouts	<b>23</b> 10:Evangelism &Membership Committee 6:30pm CubScouts	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 3:00pm Worship Service
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29.</b>	<b>30</b> 1:30pm Bible Study	<b>31</b>	

**Faith United Church**

1001 5th Street  
PO Box 1113  
International Falls, Mn.  
56649

=====

**Phone:**

218-283-2486

**Email:**

[faithuccifalls@gmail.com](mailto:faithuccifalls@gmail.com)

=====

**We're on the Web!**


Visit us at:  
[www.faithuccifalls.org](http://www.faithuccifalls.org)

**Find us on Facebook** 

Faith United Church UCC

*and don't forget to  
become a fan!*

Matters of Faith is published by Faith United Church, UCC for it's members and friends

*No matter who you are,  
or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.* 



*Address Correction Requested*

**Faith United Church, UCC**  
PO Box 1113  
International Falls, MN 56649