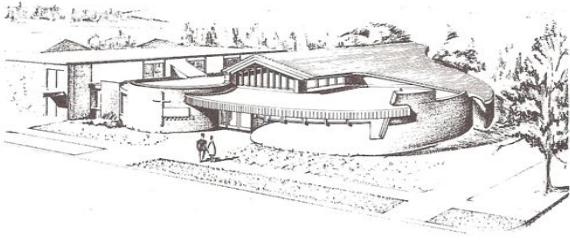


June 2019

Matters of Faith



Faith United Church of Christ
1001 5th Street Int'l Falls, Mn
218-283-2486
Saturday Worship 4:00 p.m.

FAITH NEWS JUNE, 2019

This month I'm not doing a newsletter for the parish, so I want to write this article to you. First off I want to thank you all for continued support and appreciation of what I've been trying to do in my ministry to you. I really appreciate all that you've done for Carol and I. With that said I want to take a minute and explain what is going to happen next in the relations between Faith Church and the Rainy River Parish. At the end of June there will be an important meeting between representatives of the three congregations and Rev. Wagner from the Conference to discuss what happens next as I wrap up my ministry in northern Minnesota. Carol and I had originally planned to stay here until 2021 or 22. We are still open to that possibility. But the reality is we may need to leave before then and we will see what happens.

When Pastor Sue retired I know you completed your own pastoral search profile to use looking for your own pastor. But because it was proving difficult to find someone willing to take on this church, and as interim I was asked to come and serve you and discussions began about the three congregations going into a three church search for a pastor. As that was going on here the parish was discussing beginning the search process to replace me. But stopped their efforts to organize that until it was decided if a three church process was going to be carried out. The meeting at the end of June is that start of that process. My role now in all of this is not to be involved but to continue in my current ministry.

To the best of my knowledge if all three congregations decide to enter into a search process together, Birchdale and Baudette will have to develop a whole new profile and you will have to rework your current one to reflect the new arrangement. This will amount to a somewhat complicated process of profile committees in each church AND a joint committee that will have to work on things like pastor package, responsibilities, time use between congregations and perhaps where the pastor will be based. Under normal circumstances this can be a two year process. My hunch is this will take longer because of the three congregations working together. This is my personal belief, if you go into a three church search it would be best if the churches agreed on where the pastor is to live and be based. Otherwise the new pastor's first decision can possibly upset two churches.

You've always been a single congregation but some of you I know remember the time of the merger that formed Faith Church and how it was a difficult struggle I would bet to get the two congregations working together. This process is fairly similar and will require a level of patience, love and understanding that will challenge everyone's faith. Even though the Rainy River congregations have been working together for over 50 years, the struggle will be equally difficult for them. Especially for Baudette which has been the dominate congregation in the parish for much of that time and has had to learn to accept Birchdale as an equal and have fears about what their role will be working with a larger congregation in the mix.

My personal belief is that to give these congregations the best chance to attract a quality pastor and carry on ministry into the future you will need to work together and "Play nice with each other." If you don't work together very likely one by one you will all close. I believe personally that the ministry of these three congregations is to important to not make the effort to extend it out as long as you can. It will not be easy and require change and patience on the part of all three. BUT in our tradition the decision is yours to make. Make your decisions with prayer and patience under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and God go with you. ---Pastor John



A Note from Zion Lutheran Church:

Good Afternoon,

Lenten service offerings were amazing!! Three checks are issued and mailed:

\$306.50 Falls Hunger Coalition

\$306.50 Servant of Shelter

\$306.50 Backus Community Café

Please feel free to share the good news with your congregations!

Joelle Leseman

Parish Secretary

Zion Lutheran Church



To: Gerry & Jackie Guimond

"Thank You" so much for stepping in and helping us with our musical needs. It's been a joy to listen to your musical talents week after week, we are so fortunate and blessed that you have done this for us.



To: Donna Frederickson

"Welcome Back" the old organ is awaiting...hope you're looking forward to playing it as much as we are!! It will be so good to see you, and listen to you making beautiful music from the old keyboards.



To: Marguerite Davison

Congratulations on celebrating your **90th** Birthday on May 16th!!!

&

"Thank You" to Don and Larry for serving cake and coffee in her honor!!!

(A fun day to remember)


June 2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1 4:00pm Worship Service
2	3 5:00pm Knox Ladies Luncheon 	4	5	6	7	8 4:00pm Worship Service <i>"Strengthen the Church"-starts</i>
9	10 5-6:30pm Ruby's Pantry	11	12 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	13	14	15 4:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
16 <i>Father's Day</i> 	17	18	19	20	21	22 4:00pm Worship Service
23 <hr/> 30	24	25	26 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	27	29	29 4:00pm Worship Service



July 2019 (tentative)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>  Office Closed	5	6 4:00pm Worship Service
7	8 5-6:30pm Ruby's Pantry	9	10 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	11	12	13 4:00pm Worship Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 4:00pm Worship Service +PrayerChain FiresideRoom
21	22	23	24 1-3:00pm Memory Cafe	25	26	27 4:00pm Worship Service
28	29	30	31			

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We're on the Web!
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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

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