

# Faithful News

A Monthly Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church,  
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## Saints in Hiding

By Pastor Rick Mensing

*“When they saw the boldness of Peter and John...they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” Acts 4:13 RSV*

How do you recognize a Christian? Can you know a person is a Christian by the way he or she looks physically? Can you recognize a Christian by the superiority of her or his mind? Is even one’s outward action a sure indication of inner faith? By what sign can a Christian be recognized?

There is a sense in which a Christian is not recognized as such by others. The strongest Christian influence in our world has always been that of the unrecognized—the saints “in hiding.” These are the people who need no badge. The mark on them is simply the mark of Christ, the reflection of His Spirit, the presence of His grace in and through them. They are people who have been “with Jesus.”

This is the definition of a saint. The New Testament gives that name to ordinary men and women who, with all of their faults and follies, have been united with Christ in faith and have experienced His power in their own lives. We are all “called to be saints.” This is a blessing that goes on in the depths of our own hearts. Peter and John were recognized finally by only one thing. It was not their appearance or their intelligence or their prestige. It was that they had been “with Jesus.”

*Thank You, Lord, for making us saints of Your kingdom. Amen.*



**Members Present:** President Ken Czop; Vice President Mike Kaufman; Secretary Erwin (Ob) Spruth; Treasurer Joyce Staples; Ministry of Deacons, Mary Koepp; Ministry Of Property, Francis Calar; Ministry of Evangelism Michelle Searcy; and Pastor Rick Mensing.

After determining that there was a quorum, and Council accepting the Agenda, President Ken opened the meeting at 07:10, with prayer and a reading from Joshua 4:19.

The minutes of the 9 March, 2023 meeting with one spelling correction were approved for filing.

### **Ministry of Deacons**

Palm Sunday palms were lost for a few days as there was no one at the church to receive the UPS order and they would not leave it. The default address for all UPS deliveries was changed to the Pickart residence. Should it be changed to the UPS store on Mesa Ridge Parkway?

After struggling to purchase candles that fit our candle holders, it was determined the supply houses no longer carry the candles we need. Red Norden took the new candles home and made them fit. They were beautiful with their brass tops on the altar for Palm Sunday.

Easter lilies were ordered for \$9.00 each by members of the congregation. Dedications were printed in the Easter bulletin. The lilies cost \$14.99 each at Sam's Club and any difference came from the restricted line item for Special Flowers.

There was moderate attendance at the Easter Breakfast and plenty of food. About 10 children took part in the Egg Hunt. Candy for the plastic eggs was donated by members of the congregation.

Ready to place the order for new letters for the sign outside. The north face of the sign is warped and cannot be opened easily.

Mary presented a letter to Council president from the Women of the Church listing several items discussed at a women's committee meeting.

### **Vice President**

Mike reported that he is continuing to check on safety features for our physical plant.

He is also continuing going through all the old paperwork and reports in various file cabinets and boxes in an effort to account for and organize paper records related to Council and Congregational actions as well as any legal documents related to Faith Lutheran Church.

### **Treasurer**

Joyce reported that all the bills had been paid. In addition, she noted that offerings are not keeping up with our financial needs. We need to make the congregation aware of the needs of the congregation.

### **Ministry of Property**

There is a problem with the garage door opener that needs to be repaired. Francis is looking for someone with those skills to help him. There are various items in the garage that Faith does not need any more and can be disposed of.

**Resolved that we authorize Francis to dispose of the surplus church property in the best way possible. Moved by Ken, second by Ob, approved by the Council.**

### **Ministry of Evangelism**

Michelle reported that she is looking at ways to use our potlucks as a way to encourage members to invite new people to join us and in that way introduce them to Faith. She will speak with those who organize the potlucks for Friendship Meals. She is also still working with the Dance Team to find a date when they will be able to come to Faith.

### **Ministry of Education**

No report.

Through the President, Council will see if we can replace her now or wait until the May elections.

### **Secretary**

Having submitted all Council members emails to the LCMC it seems they have not been getting the information. I will again contact the LCMC office and see what I need to do to get them on the distribution list.

### **Pastor**

Adult Bible Study, Men's Breakfast and Women's Study continue. Women's Group decided to start meeting the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month starting in February.

Church Roster continues to be updated as needed. I am securing permission from non-members to include their information in the published directory.

The Lenten focus of "Amazing Grace" went well overall. Some of the scripts were more effective than others. The Easter service was very well received. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make our Lenten Season and Holy Week a blessed time.

A new member, Ivette, has been helping with our Sunday School ministry. She is actively pursuing ideas to enhance this ministry.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

I have been invited to speak at the 40th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Lutheran School and Child Development Center, April 30. I will be gone April 28 through May 1. Arrangements for Worship and Bible Study coverage are in progress.

### President

Thanked the Council for their participation in the strategy meeting on March 25th and for all the good ideas that we need to follow up on.

Raised the question regarding the Annual Report to the congregation. Council agreed that the reports should be given to the congregation at the next meeting and not wait a year to present them. This year, to catch up, both sets of minutes will be presented.

Asked about the annual reports since he had not seen all of them so far. He urged them to be submitted ASAP so that Clark could get them in the report.

Asked that the next council and prayer meeting be held on May 4th. Council agreed to the change.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erwin (Ob) Spruth, Secretary  
Minutes Approved for Filing 5/4/2023



## Sunday Morning Adult Study

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We are currently studying the New Testament book of Hebrews. You are welcome!

**Church Strategy Team**—The team consists of the following members: Jon Charles, Dee Dee Kwiatkowski, Phyllis Marvin, Rich Norden and Ivette Rentas. The team will help us develop our strategy. If you have any questions you may ask any of your church council or strategy team members. Thanks and God Bless, Ken Czop, Council President

### Sunday School

Sunday School will be continuing throughout the month of June. We are thankful that Ivette Rentas has blessed Sunday School with her teaching skills. She is being assisted by Erwin Spruth.

Cooking with Jesus will continue on the first Sunday of each month. For the remainder of the Sundays, Sunday School is focusing on learning how to pray and learning the Lord's Prayer and what it means. We are blessed to be able to offer Sunday School and pray you will strongly consider having your children attend this time of learning. They will be blessed!



**Pennies**—Thank you for your Pennies for Bridges Child Placement Agency in Pueblo. Our current total is \$148.67. Please keep bringing them. Individual pennies cannot buy anything these days but a lot of them can help our chosen charity.



## Altar Flowers

The flower chart for 2023 is on the bulletin board and you may sign up at any time. The cost is \$10.00 and checks should be made out to FLCW. For info please see Ruth Archer.

### Quilting, Needlepoint, & Crafters' Group



Come join us Mondays, June 5th & 19th at 9:00 a.m. We all enjoy time together pursuing personal projects and sharing ideas. For more info: Linette Jacobson, 719-266-3573. Mark your calendars now for July 3rd & 17th and August 7th & 21st.

### Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)



Meets here in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday. Weigh-in starts at 8 a.m. Meeting starts at 9 a.m. The yearly membership is very affordable. Call Barb Tatum at 580-716-8979 for more information.

## Ladies' Bible Study



Open to all ladies. We will meet on Thursday, June 1st at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This month only, no second meeting on June 15th. For more info see Phyllis Marvin, 719-392-2160.

## Church Prayer Time



Join us in prayer Thursday, June 8th at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Mark your calendars now for July 13th & August 10th.



Our next Council meeting is Thursday, June 8th at 7 p.m. in the Council Room. Just a reminder, any congregation member is always welcomed to our meetings. Mark your calendars now for July 13th & August 10th.

## Painting Group



Come join us Fridays at 9:00 a.m. Everyone has a great time working on our own projects and sharing our skills. For questions or more info, see Joan Deutsch, 719-392-4455.

## Shawls and Lap Robes Blessing

We are going to have the shawls and lap robes blessed on June 4th.

## Bookies



We will meet Thursday, June 8th at 1 p.m. in the kitchen. This month each person is reading a different Agatha Christie book. If you love Agatha Christie, read your favorite and join us in our discussion. Everyone is welcome to join us. Kathie Hendricks is happy to answer any questions.

## Prayer Sisters

Ladies are you remembering to pray for your Prayer Sister? Let me tell you about my 2023 Prayer Sister. I have been receiving lots of reminders that she is praying for me. I am very grateful to her for doing that and also grateful that it reminds me to pray more often for my Prayer Sister. Sometimes I get busy and just forget to pray but with my reminders I am much more diligent in praying for my Prayer Sister. Thank you, 2023 Prayer Sister

## Recycling

Thanks to everyone that has been donating their aluminum cans. We collect them in the bin by the garage and when there are enough, we take them in to be recycled.



Join us for some fun fellowship on Friday, June 9th at 7 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Hope to see you there! POC: Charlene Pickart 719-237-8106. Mark your calendars now for July 14th & August 11th.



## and Bible Study

Please join us Saturday, June 24th at 8 a.m. for breakfast followed by our Bible Study at 8:45 a.m. All men are welcome. POC for Breakfast: Larry Hilkemeier 719-493-9686. POC for Bible Study: Pastor Rick, 402-875-1569. Mark your calendars now for July 22nd & August 26th. We are currently studying Proverbs.

## Patriotic Program

If you want to hear or sing-a-long to some Patriotic music join in at the Colorado Springs Senior Center. The address is 1514 N. Hancock Avenue Colorado Springs, CO 80903. The program is on Thursday, June 15th starting at 1:30. It is sometimes crowded, so plan to be a little early to get a seat. The music is supplied by the Oasis Band ( the band that Kathie Hendricks sings with). This will help get you in the mood for the 4th of July.



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## INTO ALL THE WORLD

This week I've been going through old files and newsletters and, as only old men can do, living through some of the blessings and joy of being a cross-cultural missionary in Papua New Guinea.

My wife, Lorraine, and I arrived in New Guinea in 1952, spending a bit over a year learning the National Language (Neo-Melanesian) and getting introduced to the culture of the Enga people among whom we were to share the Good News of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Now there are some people who seem to think that missionaries bring God to the people. Nothing could be further from the truth. God is there working with people who are also His even though they still do not know Jesus. Our job as missionaries is to help them come to know Jesus as well as the truth God has already revealed to them.

Lorraine and I were to work in the Lakaip Valley of what was then called the Western Highlands (now the Enga Province), but it was still "closed" by the Australian Government which had a United Nations assignment to care for New Guinea. So we had to wait until we received permission to go into the Lakaip. Before it was opened to missions, we were given permission to walk through the area and get the lay of the land, but were not allowed to talk of where we might want to establish our station in the Lakaip area.

In February of 1954 we were finally given permission to move to the Lakaip area and settle at a place called Papayuku where we were allowed to have a 99 year lease for 5 acres for our mission station and a further 25 acres for a school, church and other things. We were able to travel 5 miles from Papayuku in any direction to patrol the area. Most of our personal belongings, as well as the things we would need for our work had to be carried down into the Lakaip Valley by Enga carriers. If I remember correctly we need more than 100 to bring everything down to our station.

At Papayuku our first task was to build a rough bush structure so we would have a place to live and to store our goods. We had been able to procure some pit-sawn planks which we could use as our floor. So in this little 20' by 30' structure we had our bed, our stove, all our clothing and spades, axes, and other tools we would need. One of the first things we need to provide was a deep pit for our bush toilet and then a small shelter for a bush shower. We had to have our water carried in buckets from a small spring to supply our needs. I have to smile as I remember how much we expatriates seemed to need in relationship to the Enga people whom, by our standards, had very little. In addition to our bed, we had a small stove in this shelter as well as a tub to keep the water in. A lot of the spade, axes and other trade goods were so that we could hire local people to work with us and so that we could buy local vegetables. We paid workers a spade or an ax head for a month's labor and used files, beads, cloth and other things for smaller purchases. It was a great adventure for us as we began to make friends with the local people and try to share with them God's Word. As much as possible we used what they already knew about God, the high god was called Aiatowa, and they were very much aware of what we call sin and disobedience to how they were supposed to live. For them, what God wanted more than anything else, was that people should live in harmony and care for one another.

It would take us several months just to begin to get things started, but we were where God wanted us to be and eventually people did come to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. How some of that happened is for another time. Just know that it never was us who made the difference, even though we did relate to our Enga friends with love. It was always the Holy Spirit who used events and opened people's minds and hearts to the wonders of God's love in Jesus.

*Peace, Pastor Ob*

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers



- June 01 Happy Birthday Lois Pearson!  
Pray for Sydni Sertich
- June 02 Pray for our friends and regular attendees of the congregation.
- June 03 Pray as we prepare for worship tomorrow. Ask God to open our hearts to His Word.  
Read Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; and Matthew 28:16-20
- June 04 Thank you God for revealing Yourself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
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- June 05 Pray for Michelle Searcy
- June 06 Pray for Vicki Shaiffer
- June 07 Pray for Ob Spruth
- June 08 Pray for Erwin A. Spruth
- June 09 Pray for our friends and regular attendees of the congregation.
- June 10 Pray as we prepare for worship tomorrow. Ask God to open our hearts to His Word.  
Read Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 119:65-72; Romans 4:13-25; and Matthew 9:9-13
- June 11 Merciful God, as You have been merciful to us, help us be merciful to others.  
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- June 12 Happy Birthday Shirley Taylor!  
Pray for Joyce Staples
- June 13 Pray for Del & Gabriele Suhr
- June 14 Happy 4th Anniversary Zach & Sandra Thorn!  
Pray for Shirley Taylor
- June 15 Pray for Tina Thorn
- June 16 Pray for our friends and regular attendees of the congregation.
- June 17 Pray as we prepare for worship tomorrow. Ask God to open our hearts to His Word.  
Read Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100; Romans 5:6-15; and Matthew 9:35-10:8
- June 18 You have called us by name O Lord. Use us to call others into Your kingdom.  
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- June 19 Pray for Zach, Sandra & Elijah Thorn
- June 20 Happy Birthday Jason Vowels!  
Pray for Jim & Lori Tyree
- June 21 Pray for Jason, Sheryl, Brooklyn, Scarlett & Riley Vowels
- June 22 Pray for Carolyn Walter
- June 23 Happy Birthday Evie Beasley!  
Pray for our friends and regular attendees of the congregation.
- June 24 Pray as we prepare for worship tomorrow. Ask God to open our hearts to His Word.  
Read Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 91:1-10; Romans 6:12-23; and Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
- June 25 Lord strengthen us so that we are able to make the good confession of faith in all circumstances.  
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- June 26 Pray for Daniel, Angela, Ariana & Hunter Walter
- June 27 Happy Birthday Guenter Kappelmann and Hope Beasley!  
Pray for Pat Wohlfeil
- June 28 Pray for Rick Youngs
- June 29 Pray for Jim & Ruth Archer
- June 30 Pray for our friends and regular attendees of the congregation.