



# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Turtle-town USA  
April 2024 newsletter



Congratulations to our confirmands shown here with Vicar Raugutt and Pastor Schumm. From l. to r.: Harris Wagner, Carter Malcolm, Caden Steffen, Ingrid Schneider and Grayson Raugutt (on behalf of home congregation, Gloria Christi Lutheran Church, Greeley, CO).



**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3 – Dale & Marilou Linnemeier
- 6 – George & Carol McBride
- 6 – Stan\* & Priscilla\* Peters
- 8 – Leonard & Rae Walker
- 10 – Timothy & Jennifer Sheets
- 19 – Calvin & Annette Schmidt
- 20 – Steven & Stephanie Widmer
- 29 – Brian & Sarah Tigner
- 29 – Michael & Alexis Buckhardt
- 30 – Jack & Luci Laughlin

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 – Madison Tigner
- 2 – David Bersel
- 4 – Nicki Esslinger

- 5 – Samuel Keily
- 6 – Evelyn Pulver
- 10 – Pastor Jason Zoske
- 10 – Michelle Zoske
- 13 – Linda Hammel
- 15 – Jodi Keener
- 15 – Cheryl Kincaid
- 17 – Ella Grace Mitchell
- 17 – Dylan Stilwell
- 18 – Angie Cotter
- 18 – Shelvy Lewis
- 18 – Tilly B. Stoner
- 19 – Dean Sheets
- 19 – Hudson Wagner
- 20 – Jacey Keener Clifford
- 20 – Natalie Steffen
- 21 – Brian Tigner
- 23 – Dale Sutton
- 25 – Ayla Wagner
- 25 – Veronica Wyatt-Kessler
- 26 – Holly Romary
- 29 – Matt Kessler
- 30 – Robert Schneider
- 30 – Caland Sembach
- 30 – Nash Probst

**Bereavement**



Gary Martin Ludban, 73, of rural Columbia City, died unexpectedly of natural causes while working with a neighbor near his home at 12:22 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 2024.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Joan; children Nicole A. (Andrew) Kirchoff of Rushville and Leigh E. (Stephen) Kneller of Columbia City; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by a brother, Glen Ludban.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Churubusco on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Memorials in Gary’s honor are to Donor’s Choice.

*Easter Evening Prayer*

*Concordia Theological Seminary*

*Sunday, April 14, 4:00 pm*

The Schola Cantorum and Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary will perform Bach Cantata 67 for the Easter season, “Hold in remembrance Jesus Christ,” in a service of Evening Prayer on Sunday, April 14, 4:00 pm in Kramer Chapel on the seminary campus. The choirs, directed by Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and joined by soloists Dr. Charles Brown (Concordia University Chicago), Ashlee Bickley, Emily Bird, and Johnathan Busarow. Music by Heinrich Schutz and Carl Schalk will also be included, as well as congregational hymns and canticles.

**We have a new Pastor!!**

Rev. Adam Sorenson & family will be moving to Indiana in just a few short weeks.

His installation date is set for Sunday, April 28th, at 4 pm.

## Comfort and Encouragement in the Face of Change

“What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Change is hard. It introduces instability into our lives and instability introduces all sorts of different responses in people. For many, change results in fear, some may get angry. Others may welcome it — or so they think. And yet others may just be confused.

Pastoral changes are especially unsettling. The relationship between a pastor and his flock must be one of deep trust, with eternal consequences. You share life’s great moments with your pastor — weddings, births, baptisms, confirmations. You also share your deepest griefs — guilt and shame and sin, marital strife, job and family stresses, sickness, and death. Throughout your life your pastor is there to guide you, to guard you, and lead you as an under-shepherd to the One Good Shepherd.

If you take a moment to reflect, Faith has been through a lot over the past few years. After spending *decades* under the care of Pastor Burgland, changes started. Pastor Mullet arrived, Pastor Burgland retired. Then COVID. Now Pastor Mullet is serving a new flock and Faith has had two vacancy pastors in the past nine months. Now we look forward to Pastor Sorenson’s arrival. And with his arrival, there *will* be yet more change. It’s inevitable! Pastor A is not Pastor B is not Pastor X. They can’t be. Each man is different, with his own background and education, experience and expertise; each man is given different gifts from the Lord.

As Christians, what does God say about change and how can we look to Scripture and our Confessions to help us when things get challenging? There are many resources, but here are a few to keep in mind over the coming weeks and months.

First, always remember who is in control, and what He promises us. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8). Christ is in control, and “we know that for those who love God all things work together for good” (Rom. 8:28). Psalm 111 gives a beautiful list of God’s goodness and provision throughout all of our life.

Secondly, remember that Christ has called us to live together as one body — *His* body, the Church. With our physical bodies, if one part is unwell, our whole body suffers. This is true of Christ’s body, also. In Galatians, St. Paul encourages us, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (6:2). Just before this, however, he acknowledges sometimes there will be problems, saying, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.” (6:1). This is a sad, but true fact of life on this fallen earth.

So how should Christians respond *when* (not *if*!) a problem or disagreement arises? Consider Luther’s explanation to the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment, “Explain everything in the kindest way;” I prefer the old translation, “put the best construction on everything.” While it is true that Luther’s admonition here can guide our conversations with each other, it has much more to do with your

*internal* dialog. Too often, we are hasty to make assumptions about each other's motivations or actions. Luther is cautioning us against this and is encouraging the opposite approach — to make excuses in our own mind for the actions of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your pastor needs this from you, too.

If your pastor does something you do like, tell him. We all need encouragement. If he does something you do not understand, ask him. If he does something you don't like, all the more you need to talk *to him*. Christ makes this clear in Matthew 18, His Church Discourse, where Jesus gives us *His* dispute resolution process. Talk to your pastor directly, not with notes or through proxies. Avoid emails and text messages, even phone calls. Be brave, there's really nothing to worry about. Your pastor wants to help you understand. He's here to teach. He has his reasons, but if he doesn't know your concern, he can't set to work addressing it. Does that mean everything you bring to him will be changed? No, probably not, but it can allow him to explain his reasons and to teach you and your fellow parishioners.

Finally, remember Jesus's teaching from Maundy Thursday, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35). In this Christian Church, we love. God is love, and we know what love looks like from Jesus. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor. 13:4-7). This verse, so often read at weddings, is about Jesus. *Jesus* is Love. *Jesus* is patient and kind, humble and deferential. *Jesus* rejoices in truth. *Jesus* bears all things. *Jesus* endured all things — God's wrath for sin and death in your place. We love because *Christ* first loved us (1 John 4:19) and we forgive each other because we are forgiven.

Dear friends in Christ. Have this mind among yourselves. Give thanks for the shepherds you have been given, but listen the one you now have. God Himself has sent him to you, for you.

~Vicar N.D. Raugutt



The Lutheran Women in Mission of Fort Wayne are hosting a three zone gathering for women of all ages on April 13, 2024 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Anthony Boulevard. The theme for our gathering is "Into All the World" which is based on Mark 16:15 (NIV) : *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

The gathering will start at 8:30 with a breakfast and fellowship. It will include meaningful devotions that will lift us up and en-

courage us to spread our faith. The speaker will be Sergui Trifa, a Romanian student at Concordia Theological Seminary, who will talk about how people are reached through the Romanian Ministry.

To register for this event please speak with Bonnie Hazen, your church's LWML representative, by Sunday, April 7. There will be a registration fee of \$7 at the door and our ingathering will be donations for the financial support of the Romanian Ministry.

So come and be a part of this meaningful event. Your presence and contribution will make a tangible difference in spreading faith and love to every corner of the world



### UPDATES

Please contact the church office if you have any updates to your address, email address or phone number.  
Thank You!

**April is Volunteer  
Appreciation  
Month**

**We are blessed  
with many!!**

## 2024 CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS & VOLUNTEERS

**President**—Jeremy Hammel (437-8722)

jhammels@outlook.com

**Vice President**—Roger Bellis (413-3123)

rogerbellislbc@gmail.com

**Secretary**—Jackie Young (260-433-1169)

jackiesue79@yahoo.com

**Treasurer**—Sabrina Stapleton (609-5989)

sstapleton@catool.com

**Financial Secretary**—Linda LeFever (693-2977)

rllefever@mediacombb.net

**Elders**—

Alan Schroeder (574-238-0283) juneal@embarqmail.com

Caland Sembach (260-580-5137)

caland.sembach@gmail.com

Landon Wagner (248-1875)

**Trustees** -

Mark Young (446-4430) mjyoung7779@gmail.com

Tom Keily (449-5291)

David Bersel (710-4059)

**Sunday School Supt.**—Amy Wagner (799-4604)

**Altar Care**—Cheri Wyss

**Altar Flowers**—Cathy Spencer

**Communion Care**—Elders

**Cradle Roll**—Janice Meinzen

**Fellowship Hour**—Stacey Keily

**Luncheons**—Leanne Wagner

**LWML Representative**—Bonnie Hazen

**Lawn Care**—Calvin Schmidt

**Landscaping**—Leanne Wagner & Holly Romary

**Red Cross Volunteers**—Janet Burgland, Joy Lambert, Carol McBride

**Socks for Vets**—Barb Sheets

**Giving Tree**—Marilou Linnemeier & Jennifer Malcolm

**Organists** —Holly Romary, Sam Keily, Matt Johnston

**Jr. Organist**—Maylan Wagner

**Church Secretary**—Linda LeFever

**Custodians**—Harry Oelschlager & Alex Sembach

**Ushers**—Bob, Landon & Austin Wagner, Jeremy & Jack Hammel, Ken Lahrman, Ken Myers & Calvin Schmidt

### PASTORAL STAFF



Vicar Nathan & Juree  
Raugutt & family



Field Worker Kenny  
and Jeanette Klaehn

### VACANCY PASTOR INFO

Rev. Schumm will be our vacancy pastor while Rev. Sorenson considers our call.

For the time being, please contact Vicar Raugutt if you need pastoral support. He will arrange pastoral support as each situation demands.

His email address is:

Nathan.Raugutt@ctssfw.edu.

His phone # is:

(719)-332-3589.

Thursday Prayer & Bible Class remains on hiatus until further notice. We will resume meeting as soon as possible.



**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**9251 East State Road 205**  
**Churubusco, IN 46723**

**Church Office 260-693-6254**

**Email: [flcbusco@yahoo.com](mailto:flcbusco@yahoo.com); Web site: <http://www.flcbusco.org>**

**Sunday Worship Services: 8 am & 10 am; Wednesday Worship at 7:00 pm**

**Private Communion for individuals & families available by appt.**

