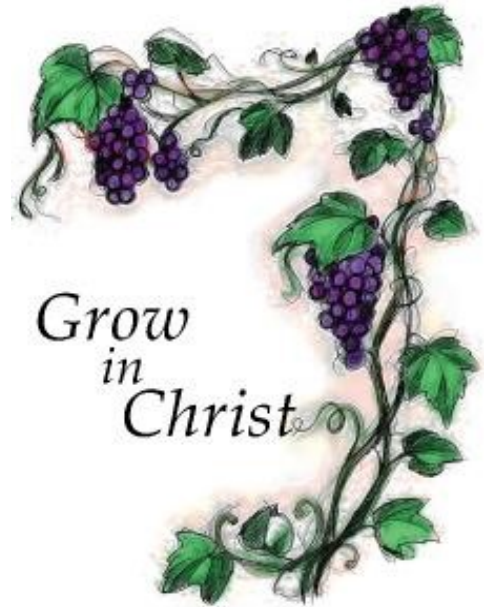


The Grape Vine

Faith Lutheran Church
Lake Hanska Lutheran Church



April 2026

Happenings in & around the Parish

Living Meadows at Luther, Madelia Spring Festival

Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Madelia

Serving starts at 11:00 AM
until 1:00 PM

Menu will be ham sandwiches,
Salads galore, and cupcakes
Water and Coffee

All for \$6.00

A raffle table of goods will be
available to look at and bid on.
The raffle will take place at
1:00 PM

Proceeds will be used by the
Living Meadows Auxiliary
to fund many projects
and activities that the residents
do while they spend their days
there.

The Public is invited.
You will not go home hungry!

Newsletter

Deadline April 17TH

C h u r c h C o u n c i l s

Faith

Lori Pietsch
Randy Gustafson
Stacy Reed
Randy Gustafson, Arlo Feder
Jane Piepgras, Kathy Guyer
Ben Odegard, Chad Becker,
Pam Bocock, Stacy Reed
Lori Pietsch, Cindy Lehman,
Sherri Gustafson, Mary Feder
Stephanie Odegard, Tammy Krebs,
Julia Young, Patty Young

President
Vice President
Secretary
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Trustees

Deacons
Board of Education

WELCA Coordinator Bonnie Lilleodden

BOLD NAMES = Joint Executive Board

Lake Hanska

Melissa Engelhart
Jim Lilleodden
Cheryl Doe
Bonnie Lilleodden
Beth Kral
Brian Kjelshus,
Norman Skarphol
Pam Kjelshus,
(Position Open)

Faith Website

Faith has a new website that is very operator friendly. You can get your newsletter there, watch the worship service (not Live, though), and hopefully, soon receive other important things-like current, up-to-date calendar. The address is: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org

Join Us For Worship!

If you are searching for a church home or are currently a member,
we want to extend a warm welcome to you.

Faith & Lake Hanska observe the "Open" communion policy ~
for all people in Christ are welcome at our Lord's Table.

Here we are at April and we think spring is here to stay – but we have been fooled before. Easter is early this year, and I can remember as a kid playing with a cousin out in the snow on Easter – hopefully we won't see that.

April is primarily a feminine given name of a Latin origin meaning “to open” which is very symbolic of what we think of spring. We think of the new buds on trees, of the grass beginning to turn green, of ice-covered lakes opening up and of course April showers so that we can have May flowers. Back to the Latin origin, it refers to the opening of nature during springtime.

During our Easter season, we can relate these meanings to our celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter morning. However, we don't look at the opening of nature – we look at the opening of the tomb and finding it empty! I think we all have experienced the feeling of opening a gift box, a package, that tub of ice cream in the freezer and finding that it is empty! We don't rejoice at that time and neither did the women who had come in the early hours of Easter morning. They were very concerned with where their Lord had been taken – but their concerns were soon to turn to celebration when they discovered that Jesus was with them still. In his human form, nail holes in his hands and the spear slice in his side.

At this time of spring, when we get back outdoors to enjoy the warmer weather with walks, bike rides, lawn work or just sitting on a deck taking in the new beginnings after the winter – let us take in all the wonder around us and take time to rejoice that our Savior died and rose again for us.

A proper prayer for spring – “As the sun rises, you are ever near us, risen Christ. We give you thanks and praise for your presence in all its surprising forms.” Let us truly revel and enjoy what God has done for us this Easter and every day of the year.

Just one of you in Christ - Ralph

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL

DATE	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 <i>or</i> Jeremiah 31:1-6	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 <i>or</i> Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 28:1-10 <i>or</i> John 20:1-8
Sunday, April 12 2 nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
Sunday, April 19 3 rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
Sunday, April 26 4 th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – March 12, 2026

President - Lori Pietsch
Secretary - Stacy Reed
Deacons - Sherri Gustafson, Cindy Lehman
Trustees - Ben Odegard, Chad Becker, Pam Bocock
BOE - Steph Odegard

V. President - Randy Gustafson
Treasurers - Kathy Guyer, Jane Piegras
S.A.M - Ralph Flitter

Secretary's Report:

Reviewed February minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

February expenses were \$15,353.98 and receipts \$8,876.05. Kathy reported she has asked for a larger garbage bin to be delivered. Also discussed was bringing in a 2 or 4 yd dumpster for the week of VBS.

Trustees Report:

The glass panel by the front sliding doors was shattered a few weeks ago, a police report was filed. The replacement cost is \$ 933.40 and has been ordered. Ben presented a quote for security cameras through Christensen Communications. We discussed the need and cost of these cameras and will further discuss them at the next meeting.

Deacons:

Easter garden order forms are available in the sanctuary.

- ◆ 3/21- 1st Communion class
- ◆ 3/29- Palm Sunday
- ◆ 4/5 - Easter Sunday with children's sermon
- ◆ 5/3- Confirmation Sunday
- ◆ 5/17- Senior Graduation Recognition

We have received 2 large cash donations for VBS.

Board of Ed:

April 29th will be the last night of JAM with a Parent/family night. Confirmation students are seeking donations for the food shelf. In April the students will be shopping for the food shelf with the donations collected. Last year they collected \$1,070. A donation plate is also located in the back of the church for food shelf donations.

Ralph's Report:

Ralph's visits this month were 5 Home/1 Living Meadows, 1 Office visit and 3 at Pray without Ceasing. He has attended a daylong session as part of the Partners in Education of the SW MN Synod and also the annual meeting of the Watonwan River Conference. Attendance for Wednesday Lenten services at Faith has been spotty. Ralph would like to address this for next year, do we need to change the time of the service? Ralph continues to meet with his mentors Scott Richards and Sarah Zender. He will be attending his 3rd and final SAM retreat April 19-21.

Motion to accept reports was made by Ben/seconded by Kathy.

Old Business:

Cranberry hymnals have been purchased. A listing was reviewed for the visiting committee. The new website is operating and looks great, take a look and let us know what you think. The new website is:

faithlutheranmadelia.org

New Business:

Spring clean-up is scheduled for 4/29 at 6:00pm. Please consider helping us. We have spoken to an organ repair specialist and received a quote for a service call to fix. They believe it is a magnetic issue with a stuck F pedal.

Chad made a motion to approve the organ repair and Ben seconded.

Respectfully submitted, Stacy Reed-Secretary

Social Media for our Churches

Faith:

Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org

[Facebook.com/FOSParish](https://www.facebook.com/FOSParish)

Lake Hanska:

[Facebook.com/Lake Hanska](https://www.facebook.com/LakeHanska)

Lutheran Church

The Easter Story

Matthew 28:1-10

from The Message

Risen from the Dead

28 ¹⁻⁴ After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

⁵⁻⁶ The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

⁷ "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

⁸⁻¹⁰ The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

Matthew 28:1-10

from the NRSV Holy Bible

Sorrow gives way to "fear and great joy" when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

John 20:1-18

from The Message

Resurrection!

20 ¹⁻² Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

³⁻¹⁰ Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

¹¹⁻¹³ But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

¹³⁻¹⁴ "They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

¹⁵ Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

¹⁶ Jesus said, "Mary." Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "*Rabboni!*" meaning "Teacher!"

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

John 20:1-18

from the NRSV Holy Bible

John's gospel describes the confusion and excitement of the first Easter: the stone is moved, disciples race back and forth, and angels speak to a weeping woman. Then, Jesus himself appears.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "*Rabbouni!*" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

News from Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

Food Shelf Report

We were able to once again bring 23# of supplies to the Brown County Food Shelf at the end of February. We are so grateful to deliver goods at the end of each month. It is so easy to drop any non-perishable groceries, cleaning supplies, or hygiene supplies into the box provided in the Narthex of the church.

WELCA Quilters Report

5 ladies met on Wednesday, March 4th for a fun get-together. They were able to make 2 quilts during the morning hours plus assist with another quilt. We'd love for you to come join us. Another way to help out is to donate materials of old sheets or good materials in good shape, or donating cash to buy more materials as our resources for funds are limited. If interested, we do also sell our quilts for \$25 each. Any quilts we have are donated to NUMAS Haus, Brown County Human Services, Watonwan Human Services, Senior Homes, NOVA House, and more.

Bible Study

Ralph Flitter leads us in a more in-depth look of the Gospel from the worship the Sunday before we meet. This is a very relaxed, informal discussion of the Gospel. Everyone (men-women-Faith Lutheran members and non-members) are welcome to join us. You do not have to do quilting if you come for the Bible Study. We will enjoy coffee and treats (optional: bring a treat to share) during the study. We look forward to seeing you.

Living Meadows General Store

The Living Meadows at Luther Spring Festival will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Madelia on Tuesday, April 14th. The public is encouraged to come and support Living Meadows. We continue to have a basket located in the narthex to receive small gift items to be donated to Living Meadows General Store for bingo prizes and other things. Items can be lotions and cremes, soaps, body sprays, hygiene care items, toothpaste, coloring books, large sized crayons, Word Finds, greeting cards, snacks and sugar-free candies, room décor and other small items.

Snow Removal Season

Like it or not we are in the season of possible snow removal. Please be considerate of the need and pitch in when you can. A shovel, broom, and salt is provided near the west door of the Narthex. If you have a blower or scoop, the trustees will be forever grateful for the help.



<u>Vital Statistics</u>		
<u>Faith</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 1	27	\$ 1,735.00
March 8	38	\$ 2,192.00
March 15	Cancelled	\$ 895.00
<u>Lake Hanska</u>		
March 1	27	\$ 925.00
March 8	38	\$ 1,990.00
March 15	Cancelled	\$ 0.00


Church Council
Lake Hanska Lutheran
 Unavailable at print time
Faith Lutheran
 Thursday, April 9th 7:00 PM








Congratulations Faith!
 In 2025, Faith received \$366 through the Thrivent Choice program.

Happenings in the Parish
Funerals 3/28 (Celebration of Life-F) Justin Nelson
Baptisms
Weddings

April 2026-Faith/Lake Hanska

God's People... Leading Others to the Love of Jesus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>National Card & Letter Global Astronomy Month Keep America Beautiful Month Lawn & Garden Month National Frog Month National Humor Month</p>	<p>A P R I L Writing Month Stress Awareness Month Sexual Assault Awareness Month</p>	<p>Pecan Month Poetry Month Welding Month National Kite Month</p>	<p>1 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. @ 1st Presbyterian NO Confirmation</p>	<p>2 10 Chair Yoga/F 3:30 PM at Lake Hanska  MAUNDY THURSDAY</p>	<p>3  GOOD FRIDAY 6:30 PM at Faith</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Communion 9:00 AM Faith - Children's Service 10:30 AM Lake Hanska </p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 10:00 AM Chair Yoga at Faith 11:15 AM Pray w/o Ceasing-LM 1:00 Coffee & Communion-LM</p>	<p>8 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. @ 1st Presbyterian 6:00-7:30 PM Confirmation/Faith</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Chair Yoga/F 7:00 PM Faith Council</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out</p>
<p>12 Communion 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska Second Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Chair Yoga at Faith 11:15 AM Pray w/o Ceasing at Living Meadows</p>	<p>15 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. @ 1st Presbyterian 6:00-7:30 PM Confirmation/Faith</p>	<p>16 10:00 AM Chair Yoga/F</p>	<p>17 Newsletter  ARTICLE DEADLINE</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska Third Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>20 9:00 AM Ruth Bible Study Ralph - S.A.M. Training</p>	<p>21 10:00 AM Chair Yoga at Faith 11:15 AM Pray w/o Ceasing at Living Meadows</p>	<p>22 Earth Day 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. @ 1st Presbyterian 3:30-5:30 PM Madelia Food Shelf Open House 6:00-7:30 PM Confirmation/Faith</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Chair Yoga/F</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out</p>
<p>26 9:00 AM Faith 10:30 AM Lake Hanska Fourth Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:00 AM Chair Yoga at Faith 11:15 AM Pray w/o Ceasing at Living Meadows</p>	<p>29 3:15-5:00 PM J.A.M. @ 1st Presbyterian 6:00-7:30 PM Confirmation/Faith</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Chair Yoga/F</p>	<p>1 </p>	<p>2</p>

Faith Lutheran Church

306 Abbot Ave SW ~ Madelia, MN 56062

Phone: 507-642-8500

Facebook.com/FOSParish

Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org

E-mail: office@faithoursaviours.org

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

17923 115th St ~ PO Box 65 ~ Hanska, MN 56041

Phone: 507-439-6635

(FB) Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

Ralph Flitter ~ Synod Authorized Minister

Cell Phone: 507-317-4204 E-mail: flitterralph@gmail.com



The Grape Vine

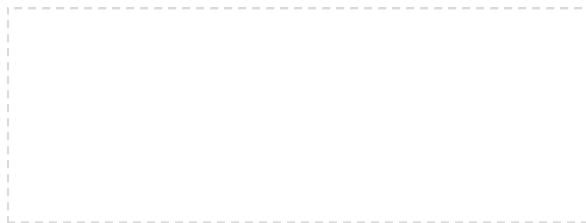
Faith ~ Lake Hanska
Main Office Address
306 Abbot Ave SW
Madelia MN 56062

Address Service Requested

~ March 2026 ~

Worship Schedule

Every Sunday: 9:00 AM @ Faith
Every Sunday: 10:30 AM @ Lake Hanska
Faith Office Phone: 507-642-8500
Lake Hanska Phone: 507-439-6948
Faith Email: office@faithoursaviours.org
Ralph Flitter Email: flitteralph@gmail.com



Office hours:

Joyce: Every afternoon except Friday

You can email the office with any information or questions.

You can call Ralph at 507-317-4204, Joyce at 507-642-8500,
your church president:

Faith: Lori Pietsch 507-317-4634 **Lake Hanska:** Melissa Engelhart 952-836-9564
or email the church at: office@faithoursaviours.org
or Ralph at: flitteralph@gmail.com
for your church needs or assistance.

Faith ~ April ~ 9:00 AM In-Person & LIVE on Facebook

Communion is the 1st & 2nd Sunday of each month

Altar Guild: Elsie Pace, Lana Bruns

Reader

Accompanist

April 5 - Easter Sunday
April 12
April 19
April 26

Barb Overlie
Mark Blekestad
Dorie Cummins

Mya Hanson

PLEASE SIGN UP - YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR SERVICE BETTER!



Lake Hanska ~ April ~ 10:30 AM In-Person & LIVE on Facebook

Communion is the 1st & 2nd Sunday of each month

Altar Guild: Sue Stoesz, Lanna Raatz

Ushers

Accompanist

April 5 - Easter Sunday
April 12
April 19
April 26

Sue Stoesz, Lanna Raatz
Larry Stoesz, Kris Raatz
Larry Stoesz, Kris Raatz
Jim Lilleodden, Randy Kral

Mya Hanson