



April 2021

## Confirmation Set for May 2



On Sunday, May 2nd, we will be celebrating our 9th grade confirmation students as they Affirm their Baptism! These students and a limited amount of their families will attend the 10:30 worship service and fill the sanctuary. In order to maintain safe distancing, if you typically attend the 10:30 service, we encourage you to attend the 9 am service, watch from home, or we will invite you to sit by the tv monitors in the narthex if you attend.

Thank you for your continued support and prayer of our 22 students!

## PASTOR JOHN TO ATTEND CHAPLAIN BASIC TRAINING IN MAY



In the five years of being at Faith, you have taught me so much about life. I've grown in my own pastoral identity and my theological grounding. This church

continues to amaze me with our depth of reaching out to our community and the world. I'm proud to serve with you. You lift each other up and care for one another around difficult conversations about race, homelessness, food insecurity, and with people who experience oppression.

Faith also reaches out to veterans and this contributed to my calling to join the National Guard last fall. Thus far, my guard duties (one Saturday/ Monday a month) have not taken me away from worship or my regular responsibilities at Faith. Since I'm not trained, I was not called in to State Active Duty, but I'm affirmed that my voice as a chaplain for guard members in need of counsel or to process the events we've all witnessed is an important one, especially from the perspective as an ELCA pastor and our theological grounding of justice

and peace.

There are 13 weeks of Chaplain Basic Training (emphasis on Chaplain!) that I need to complete in South Carolina. Fortunately, I can break these up into chunks and my first time being away is at the end of May to mid-June. Thanks to our hybrid services that include videos, I will still have some presence in worship with great preaching lined up while I'm gone. I'm grateful for the leadership of Bishop Patricia Lull, who attended my swearing in last September and has been an advocate for my chaplaincy. She will preach on June 6th. I can't wait to tune in and watch from Fort Jackson!

I appreciate your prayers and support, not just for me, but my family. Taryn and our kids have been a rock and understand that this is another call that God has put into my life. I appreciate the training and leadership skills I'll continue to develop while I'm gone, as they will only help me become a better pastor for our congregation in the future.

*-Pastor John*



# IT TAKES A ROCKET SCIENTIST

*Paul Wahlquist's love of creation leads toward prairie restoration*

In December 2018, **Paul Wahlquist**, formerly of Forest Lake, passed away. Paul was a caring person who had a love for history, community and traveling around the world. He generously left a portion of his estate to Faith. This **memorial gift** gives Faith the opportunity to honor Paul through an exciting new **Creation Care** initiative.

Paul won the statewide Minnesota Conservation Award as a high school sophomore, for an essay he wrote regarding the importance of nature. Paul greatly appreciated science and the natural world, writing numerous columns devoted to his interest for the *Forest Breeze*, Forest Lake High School's national award-winning newspaper, where he served as editor.

It shouldn't take a rocket scientist to understand how church, nature and preservation would benefit all, but, in this case, Paul Wahlquist really was a rocket scientist. His love for the universe around him led him to his career at California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Faith is blessed by a large green field that extends beyond our playground. We plan to turn a portion of the field into a restored prairie environment. It will add a **distinctive look** to the field and provide **valuable**

**habitat** for songbirds, butterflies, bees and other pollinators. It's also an opportunity to educate our community about native landscapes with plant identification signs.

Establishing a native landscape will provide a long term, ecologically sound area that is adapted to the existing conditions of the site. This native landscape will not require irrigation, black dirt or other soil amendments.

The 4-year process will begin late this spring with a "germination year" which includes a controlled burn, herbicides, seeding, mulching, infrequent mowing and planting. In following years, spot spraying, spot mowing, wicking and other techniques will be used to control weeds within the developing native landscape. An occasional prescribed burn will be used as needed to stimulate native species to grow more robustly.



## Prairie Restoration Fast Facts

- Project location is at west end of church field (Tolzmann Park).
- Project installation and management to be carried out by Prairie Restorations, Inc. over a multi-year period.
- Offers ecological soundness, beauty, cost savings, and environmental benefits.



## ABUNDANCE CAMPAIGN –EXTENDED UNTIL MAY 17!

**Seeking to raise money for food shelves, housing, refugees, facility upgrades**

As people of faith, we are continually challenged to grow in generosity. God calls us to this!

We are grateful for your generosity with all God's blessings. Some of our members have come to us asking how Faith may be able to use additional gifts.

Through a tax return, a stimulus check, or a bonus they are in a better financial position than they expected. We are so excited that you're asking!

Already 22 donors have contributed a combined total of \$8,500. As one donor wrote, *"Thank you to ALL the faithful members who give of their time, talents, energy and devotion so I can still feel connected and included in the life of my dear Faith Lutheran Church. In appreciation of all the goodness of Faith Lutheran, please accept my check."*

If you're being called to be generous right now, your gift



could be significant for our ministry. Any checks or online donations with the word "ABUNDANCE" in the memo, will go towards an abundance campaign. We will use of the abundance on kitchen and sanctuary upgrades while sharing the remainder with our ministry partners, like the local food shelves, housing support, and refugee services.

## GODSPEED, NATE!



Nate Bergengren, our part-time Director of Modern Worship, is leaving Faith at the end of May for a new full-time ministry opportunity. For the past two years, Nate has blessed Faith with his collaborative and inviting musical style, introducing a wide range of songs that glorify God. We especially appreciate Nate's creative approach to keeping the

10:30 worship service vibrant during pandemic. We wish Nate all the best as he moves into a new chapter of his life.



## HOSPITALITY PREPARATIONS

Little did we know on March 7, 2020, when we enjoyed Faith Break (fellowship time between Sunday Services), that we would not brew coffee again in the building for over one year!

We are preparing for the day when we can gather again (hopefully soon). A volunteer crew has cleaned the kitchen from top to bottom. We purchased a new coffee maker (thanks to the Abundance Campaign) and are testing other appliances to make sure they are in good working order. Look for news about gathering for fellowship when the CDC says it is safe to do so.





## FOR ALL THE SAINTS Columbarium Expansion Starts This Summer



In 2005, three leaders had a vision to create a place of interment, close to church, for those who faithfully served and worshipped here. The result was a meditative

and beautifully landscaped Memorial Prayer Garden dedicated to both the saints who have gone before us and the saints still among us.

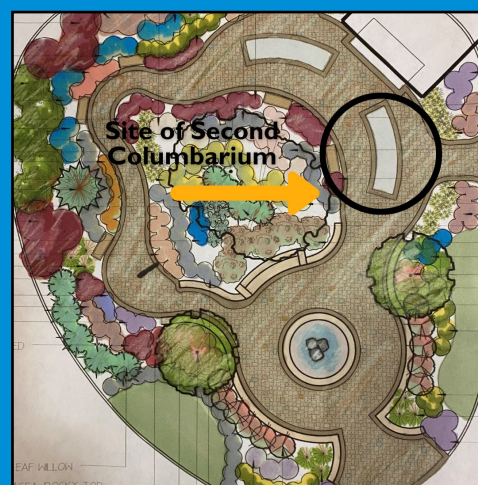
The original plans included two columbaria: structures for

public storage of funerary urns, holding cremated remains of the deceased. The first columbarium was installed in 2008. Currently, 61% of the niches are reserved or occupied, and interest has continued to grow.

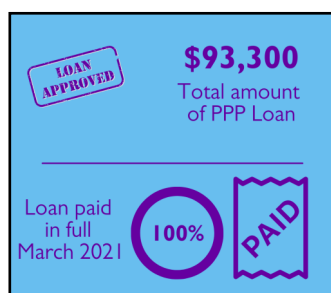
We are excited to announce that the second Columbarium with 112 niches will be added late this summer. The columbarium and re-landscaping will be paid for with dedicated funds that have been raised over the last 13 years through flower sales, rummage sales, memorials and a whole lot of grit and determination.

If you are interested in purchasing a niche, please contact Sue Gort, chairperson of the Memorial Prayer Garden committee, at 651-464-2867. **Hear more about this project from Sue Gort on Mother's Day during worship!**

In this 2008 concept drawing, you can see where the second columbarium will be located-which is to the right of the current columbarium. In the photo above, Sue Gort stands at the **future location**.



## PPP LOAN FORGIVEN



One year ago, in April 2020, Faith received a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan in the amount of \$93,300. The PPP loan was 100% forgiven on March 9, 2021. This creates an adjustment to 2020 net income. Look

for revised financial statements when we gather for our annual congregational meeting this summer.



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