

Faith Matters

November 2014

Pastor's Page



Let's see, I've been a called pastor at Faith for a little over a year and this is the November Pastor's Page... That's easy! There's so much to be thankful for! When I think of my first year serving the wonderful people of Faith Lutheran, this is what I am giving thanks to God for:

I'm thankful for three distinct worship experiences on Sunday morning (four, if you include Compline), each full of faithful folks.

I'm thankful for an amazing staff that not only works effectively, creatively, and faithfully, but also truly loves each other!

I'm thankful for all the new people the Holy Spirit has called through our doors this Fall, and for another great group of new members we will be receiving this month!

I'm thankful for coffee.

I'm thankful for the faithful volunteers at Faith, from the Spit 'n Shiners to the bulletin folders to the front desk volunteers... I could go on and on.

I'm thankful for the awesome calling to preach and teach the word of God.

I'm thankful for this great building.

I'm even more thankful that every square inch of this great building is being used on a regular basis!

I'm thankful that about 150 children and youth that come to this church every Wednesday to have fun in church, learn about God, and grow in Faith.

I'm thankful for the amazing musicians that share their gifts with us in leading worship every Sunday. I know we don't often clap for you, but we really appreciate what you do!

I'm thankful for fun socks.

I'm thankful for all the faithful saints who have come before us. Some wonderful folks went home to be with the Lord this past year. I miss them, and I'm so thankful for their legacy.

I am thankful for all of you who have made time to become more informed about the Imagine Capital Campaign, and for the prayer you have dedicated to it.

I am thankful, in advance, for the results of the campaign, and hopeful that we can continue to expand out ministry!

I'm still thankful for coffee.

I'm thankful for high school seniors who get up before 6 A.M. every Friday to dig deeper into Lutheran theology- even if it means I have to get up too.

I'm thankful for all the food we'll be collecting this month for the food shelf, and I pray that God would bless it and those who receive it.

And I'm thankful for you, whoever you are and whenever you are reading this. I'm thankful for the faith God has given you and that you are my brother or sister in Christ.

What are you thankful for?

I would love to hear it! Send me an email at davidw@faithlc.com, or better yet, post it on Facebook or Twitter and tag me in it!

In Christ,
Pastor Dave

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 am First Word Worship Service

9:15 am Digging Deeper, Sunday School,
and Confirmation

10:10 am Sanctuary Worship Service

10:10 am Foundation Worship Service

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!" – Psalm 136:1

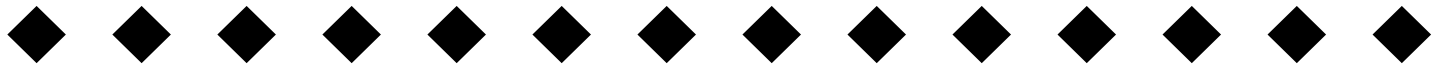
stump the pastor

Q: What would life be like if the Fall had not occurred?

A: It is interesting to imagine how the world would be different if major events had turned out differently or if influential people had reached a decision opposite from what they did. A whole genre of writing today—called alternative or virtual or counterfactual history—is devoted to spinning out the consequences of different historical outcomes. What if the South had won the Civil War? What if the American Revolution had failed? What if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God?

Those scenarios can be fascinating, but they all share a fatal flaw. They can never be more than speculation. No one scenario can possibly be right, because none of them actually happened. The only consequences we can know for sure are the ones that really occurred.

That is true of the Fall, as well. The entire opening prologue to Genesis, chapters 2-11, was written to describe the real and tragic consequences of sin. It sets the stage for God's plan to redeem sinners and restore creation, which began with Abraham and culminated in Jesus. That plan is the only outcome we can truly know, for it is the one—the only one—that God has chosen to work out in and through the Church.



Digging Deeper

There are currently 3 Digging Deeper options to choose from on Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.:

- 1) **C.S. Lewis—Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet** : Lewis was an extraordinary scholar, a convert to the Christian faith and the best known Christian teacher of the 20th century. Learn more about this great Christian author. Meeting in the office conference room.
- 2) **Faith Cliches: Does God help those that help themselves? Did God really let this happen for a reason? Come examine some common clichés Christians use. We will dig through scripture and Lutheran Theology to uncover the validity of these sayings and discover more useful alternatives. This group is meeting in the Faith Center.**
- 3) **The Smart Step Family: Has been postponed due to lack of participation. Watch for it to be rescheduled in 2015 or contact the office for more information.**
- 4) **There is also a new member class that is beginning on November 2nd. Please contact Marsha Schmit if you are interested in joining.**

Giving = Mission

giving joyfully, growing ministry

Early in November, members of Faith will receive a statement of their giving to the church through October of this year. Please examine it carefully to see if it reflects the commitment you intended to make—or are able to make—to the mission and ministry of Faith this year.

Faith has seen a worrisome trend growing. Even though our church's financial health has improved dramatically in the last five years, offerings to the church have remained flat or declined. ***Giving so far in 2014 is at the lowest level since 2010!*** The General Fund currently has a ***\$27,000 deficit***, even though spending year-to-date is ***\$34,000 below budget!*** Faith's leaders have managed to do more with less, but that is not a sustainable pattern, much less allowing for expansion of ministry.

Remember that Christian giving is first and foremost a response of ***gratitude*** to what God first gives us—ourselves, our time and our possessions. How has God blessed you to support the vital ministry God is doing in and through Faith Lutheran Church?



Have you received and read all the information about the Imagine Capital Campaign and the difference it can make in paying for the new building addition? We hope so. If not, it is still not too late!

The space for ministry this building provides is heavily used in many creative ways. A generous, faithful response to the Imagine Capital Campaign could dramatically reduce the time and cost of paying for it.

All members of Faith will soon receive an Imagine pledge card. Please consider in prayer how God is calling you and has blessed you to support this effort. Then return your card on (or before) ***Commitment Sunday***, November 16, 2014. The following week, November 23, we will thank God together on ***Celebration Sunday*** for the commitment the Holy Spirit will inspire in us who together are Faith Lutheran Church.

Thanksgiving

Worship Services



Wed. Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving Eve):
6:30pm Worship with Holy Communion

Thurs. Nov. 27 (Thanksgiving Day):
10:00am Worship with Holy Communion

Music Note



We are looking for people interested in blessing our Holiday worship with music. If you would like to sing, play, or join the choir for some special musical numbers please contact Mike Lauer.



Befriender Ministry

by Befriender Coordinator, Marsha Schmit



The Befriender Ministry has been a part of Faith Lutheran Church for over fifteen years. Over the years, twenty-five members have taken the twenty hours of training and became “Befrienders”. Those twenty-five have “officially” Befriended seventy-nine people through regular visits, phone calls, emails and card sending in addition to the informal Befriending to many more people.

Pastor Paulus and the rest of the pastoral staff have seen and heard from others how important this ministry has been and is to the people of Faith Lutheran Church. Even though we have several pastors on staff visiting regularly, it is comforting to know that there are others in the congregation who are reaching out; not only the Befrienders but many others as well. Because of this and the need to reach more people, Pastor Paulus and I, together with the Senior’s Task Force, have been making plans to join together to support, expand, invite and train others to come alongside the Befrienders. The training will not be as extensive or academic. Instead we would supply information and support to enable visitors to provide meaningful contact with those who would benefit from visits.

The name will change slightly to the “Befriender Visitation Ministry” and we will continue to use the logo above as a reminder of our Lord washing the disciples’ feet, a clear act of serving.

Perhaps you enjoy visiting others, have been interested in this ministry or just want to know more. Please watch for more information to come and feel free to contact me or Pastor Paulus to learn more.



FAITH LUTHERAN BOOK CLUB

BOOK REVIEW

By Elaine Blade

Sutter’s Cross by W. Dale Cramer was October’s selection by the Book Club. *Sutter’s Cross* is a small resort town in the southern Appalachians where the people live comfortable, predictable lives – until a homeless drifter who calls himself “Harley” shows up at the church picnic. His presence is unwelcome by many, but he is befriended by Jake (and Lori) Mahaffey, a local contractor, and by elderly Agnes Dewberry who takes him into her home. Meanwhile, Web Holcombe, a wealthy and ruthless businessman uses his money, power and influence to get whatever he wants by whatever means are needed. How Holcombe’s selfish and sometimes illegal actions affect the lives of Harley, the Mahaffeys, Agnes and his own young son, Eddy, keep the story suspenseful, moving from one crisis to another. The many sub-plots and colorful characters keep the reader’s interest to the exciting end.

Can God use a homeless stranger and outcast to change people’s thinking and turn a town upside down? Read it and find out!

*The Faith Book Club meets the second Monday of each month.
Please contact Marsha Schmit for more information.*

SENIORS SCENE

Since we have several fairly new staff members the Seniors Potluck steering committee decided we need to see what makes them tick. Who are they? Why would they choose to serve as staff members of Faith Lutheran? Where do they come from and what are their personal interests? What fuels their Christian faith? What hopes and dreams do they have for their work here at FLC? Or, as we're saying this year, what do they "IMAGINE" can actually unfold in their ministries that go beyond our visions to what God Himself can accomplish through our faithfulness?

Each time we have had a new staff person come and speak to us we have felt more bonded to them in friendship and ministry. Let's pray the same can happen for Kingdom growth and the elevation of service to our Lord.

November is Wendy Toops month at Potluck. Wendy is Director of Youth and Family Ministry. That is a challenging area of our congregation's life. Later we'll hear from Mike Lauer (music and worship) and Gladys Bonnema (youth).

Come to hear and perhaps ask questions of Wendy on **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th** (earlier because of Thanksgiving), beginning with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. Bring a friend/someone new/member or otherwise.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Please note: Deadline for bringing your boxes is **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH**. Bring your boxes to the church office on or before that date. They will be shipped soon thereafter.

IF YOU BRING other materials, have them at the church **BEFORE** November 5th. On **Wednesday, November 5th** Senior Citizens and Release Time students will pack as many boxes as possible. We need your donations for packing that day. SENIORS: please join us for a good time packing boxes and sharing the fun with Release Time students. We will start with breakfast and an OCC video at 8 a.m. and will pack until the kids leave for school at 10:30. Let Wendy Toops or Pastor Paulus know if you will be there to help.

A special THANK YOU to all who participate in this special opportunity. Thank you also to Thrivent Financial for contributing \$250 for items to go into the boxes. PRAY that the gift boxes will speak the Name of Jesus in the hearts of children everywhere.

Paper Drive

The semi trailer parked in the lot will be manned on the following dates:
November 7 from 3-6 p.m. November 8 from 8-4 p.m. November 9 from 8-noon

You can bring in your:

Newspaper: Newspaper, magazines, envelopes, copier paper, construction paper, soft covered books, hard cover books with the covers torn off (place cover with the cardboard), coloring books, catalogs, telephone books, junk mail, office paper, notebooks and more. (Please put in paper bags, not plastic)

Cardboard: Corrugated cardboard, food container boxes, pop cases, egg cartons, tissue boxes and more.

The Proceeds will help pay India Mission Trip expenses. Any questions call Roberta Yukel 583-9103

Common Cup Corner

(watch for this, coming to Faith soon!)

Isaiah 58:10-11 "IF you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."

Do you have the desire to help others? Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that only requires as much commitment as you feel you have time for? Common Cup is in need of on-call volunteers to help in the office. This commitment can be as little as one day a week or as often as you would like.

If office help isn't for you, do you have a small group of about six people that would like to spend a couple of hours one week packing bags for the Hunger-Free McLeod? There are approximately 178 students in grades K-3 who receive a bag of food each Friday to take home for the weekend. These bags need to be packed by Wednesday each week so they can be delivered to school on Thursday for Friday distribution.

Are you a photographer at heart? How about volunteering to take pictures at the Common Cup "Coming Together in Song VIII" to be held at the High School Auditorium on Sunday, November 23, at 3:00 pm.

As awesome as these volunteer opportunities are, not everyone is called to serve in these rolls. If you still want to help, but not through volunteering, Common Cup is always in need of donations. November is Faith's month to collect diapers which can be dropped off in the collection box outside the front office. Inside the office is a basket for collecting laundry supply donations. A new service provided through Common Cup is the Provision of Personal Products for high school and middle school students. Shampoo, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, tooth brushes, etc., are supplied at each school and are available for any student in need of them. With Christmas just around the corner, Common Cup also has a family sponsorship program in which you can help provide for a family in need during the holiday season.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, call the Common Cup office at 587-2213. They would love to hear from you.

Country Table

A Food Buying Club Bringing Quality Food & Savings to Your Table

FOUR packages to choose from: 1. **REGULAR PACK – \$23** (Typically includes 4 assorted meat items (3-5 lbs.), 5 varieties of fresh vegetables, and 2 fresh fruits) 2. **MEAT ONLY PACK – \$14** (Typically includes a minimum of 4 assorted frozen meat items) 3. **VEGETARIAN PACK – \$13** (Typically includes 5 varieties of fresh vegetables, and 2 fresh fruits) 4. **MEGA MEAT PACK – \$28** (Typically includes 7-9 assorted frozen meat items)

To Order: Call Sherry Kenney 320-583-4139. **ORDERS ARE DUE BY THE 1st OF EVERY MONTH!**

Distribution Site: Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson pick-up Time: 11:00am – Noon

2014 Dates: *(Mondays)* **October 20 November 17 December 15**

For more information: Call Sherry Kenney 320-583-4139

"COMING TOGETHER IN SONG VIII"

Common Cup Ministry churches will "Come Together in Song" for the 8th annual concert on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson High School Auditorium.

The program will include individual choir numbers, community vocal groups, a youth band and a mass choir of all participants.

There is no charge for the concert.

A free will offering will be taken to help support the outreach ministries of Common Cup Ministry, Inc.

Supplemental funding will be provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Faith Lutheran Church Key to New Hope Mission Expansion

The generosity of Faith Lutheran Church and special giving within its membership has played a central role in New Hope Mission Society stepping out in giving birth to the Shaliach Bible Institute/Seminary. This venture is well into its first year with 16 students being prepared for various expressions of witness especially to the Muslim community in southern India. This generosity will make possible late next spring the second academic year with an expected even larger group of new students.



Dr. Abdul Messiah, the son of Pastor K.K. Alavi, has offered his services to assist in the administration of the school and ministry led by his father. This is done presently without pay. He also is preparing himself for future spiritual leadership of the ministry in India through enrolling in classes at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Some of FLC's support for ILT may be directed to defray some of his tuition expenses. Again this congregation's generosity is making a big difference.

1st Year of Augustana District Ethiopian Partnership Makes Huge Strides

1. 39 evangelists are receiving support.
2. Construction of multiple worship centers are underway.
3. Transportation given to make witness more effective, 3 motorcycles to evangelist coordinators, and multiple bicycles to evangelists.
4. Funds given to assess opening new Mission Centers in distant parts of the country.

By year's end well over \$75,000 will have been given.

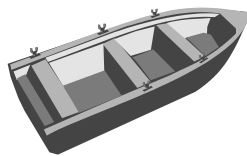
(Faith Lutheran Church has made a \$5,000 - 2014 commitment to this partnership.)

Meanwhile - Here in Hutchinson

Let's Fill the Boat!

Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of November, the Congregational Life Ministry Team is asking everyone to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Look for the boat located in the southeast entrance (Door 2), and bring your items to share with others in our community. All food collected will be brought to the Food Shelf in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you!



Our Youth are selling pizzas to help fund their mission trip to Queens New York next summer. They will be taking orders until November 12th, preparing the pizzas on November 15th and they will be available for pick up on the 16th. Spy a youth, order a pizza. Or contact Gladys Bonnema and she will hook you up.



Thoughts, Prayers & Thanks You's

Please remember all those who are serving our country through active duty:

Sgt. Jason Gaulke (El Paso, TX—nephew of Alice Fransen)

Andrew Hantge (Navy, Virginia Beach VA - son of Marsha Schmit and Robert Hantge)

Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC - son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)

Sgt. Tyler Lauer (Fort Hood, TX—son of Brian & Cyndi Lauer)

Justin Olsen (Behring, Kuwait - son of Sharon Grivna and Jerry Olsen)

SFC Guy Sing (Korea - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)

Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth Air National Guard-son of Dave & Marian Skaar)

Faith Lutheran Church Women

We want to thank everyone who helped and attended the Meatball Supper on October 7th. It is amazing to see so many volunteers coming and going as they joyfully work a shift. Special thanks to Lori Gelschus, Darlene Larson, Maria Wiekke & Peg Christensen who were on the committee. \$3,323.00 is our profit with 30% going to the mortgage and other women ministries.

Choice \$'s

Thank you also to all of you who have directed your Choice Dollars from Thrivent to Faith Lutheran Church. As of September we have had \$5,773 directed to Faith. If you are a Thrivent member with Choice \$'s to designate please call 800-847-4836 or go to Thrivent.com/choicedollars and pick FLC.

Faith In Action Sunday

A shout out to all those who helped with Community Service / Faith In Action Sunday. There was one weeding job, two window washing jobs and over 30 deliveries of goodies to shutins that came with a chance to visit for a while. What a great intergenerational activity as we had many youth participating. Also thanks to those that prepared the meal for the volunteers and those that donated goodies.

Remember our Faith members in Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers

Cedar Crest-Hutchinson

Omar Peterson

Cedar Crest—Silver Lake

Nadine Dalin

Harmony River

Valerie Fimon

Charles Kisling

Clarence Kulberg

Agnes Rettman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Joanne Olesen

Otto Streseman

Lakeside (Dassel)

Dorothy Getz

Millie Blake

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Prairie View-Hector

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Betty Garberich

Ruth McKay

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR STAFF

By: Marsha Schmit

Paulus Pilgrim grew up in Minnesota. His dad was a pastor so they moved about from parish to parish. The last place he lived with his family (one sister and three brothers) was in Hector, MN where he graduated from Hector High School. He then went to Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and later to Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. He was ordained in May of 1960 and spent nine years at two parishes in Nebraska; then moved back to Minnesota. They were in Springfield (St. Paul's) for ten years, seven years in Montevideo (Trinity), and thirteen years at Madison (MN) Lutheran Home and Hospital where he was a Chaplain. Gladys and Paulus met at Wartburg College. Her original home was Auburn, Nebraska. They moved to Hutchinson fifteen years ago, and he serves as the Visitation Pastor at Faith.

Pastor Paulus and Gladys have three children and four grandchildren. Son, Randy is an ER physician, and lives in Lafayette, Louisiana. Tim is a construction project manager and lives in Shoreview, MN. Their daughter, Cheril, is a national parks system property administrator in Glacier Park, Montana.

In his position at Faith, Paulus visits Senior members and cares for them in a variety of ways in the name of Jesus. It is a shared ministry, with all the members of the Pastoral Care team. He conducts funerals when asked to, preaches on Bless the Years Sunday, leads Seniors Potluck meetings, and "just enjoys parish ministry and membership".

His favorite part of this call is visiting people of all descriptions. He learns much from all of them, especially when they speak of, or live out, their faith, how God enables them to live joyful and victorious lives, through trials of all descriptions.

"The hardest part of this job is how emotionally heavy it gets when walking with people through unbelievable pain and grief. Conducting funerals for people you've known well and become endeared to can be exasperating," shares Paulus, "but the Gospel of God's love and promises, made good in and through Jesus Christ, is enough to '...rejoice in all circumstances..' as St. Paul writes."

He says he "feels blessed and grateful for having been called by God and Faith Lutheran to serve here."

We are truly blessed to have him and Gladys providing care and sharing in the ministry at Faith!

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

Pastors

Scott Grorud 320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan 320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson 320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim , Visitation 320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

Staff

Gladys Bonnema , Youth & Family Ministry	gladysb@faithlc.com
Jim Brodd , Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net
Keith Lange , Maintenance	
Mike Lauer , Director of Music and Worship	mikel@faithlc.com
Wendy Mayland , Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com
Diane Pedersen , Finance Coordinator	dianep@faithlc.com
Marsha Schmit , Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com
Wendy Toops , Children & Family Ministry	wendyt@faithlc.com

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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OUR MISSION IS:

BUILDING FAITH

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED