

Faith Matters ^{May 2013}

A Freund Farewell

Congratulations and best wishes to Pastor Randy & Stephanie Freund. He has accepted a new call to be a pastor at New Creation Lutheran Church in Perham, MN. Pastor Randy's last Sunday at Faith Lutheran will be May 19, 2013. **Read the article from Pastor Randy on p. 2.**

An Open House to say thank you and best wishes to the Freunds will be held:

Sunday, May 19
6:00 - 8:00pm

Program will begin at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and will be followed by refreshments and fellowship time.



Pastor Randy & Stephanie Freund with their children, Aaron & Rachel Logan and Steven & Jennifer Freund



You're Invited!

What: A Birthday Party for the Church

Where: Faith Lutheran Church, upper level

When: Sunday, May 19, 2013; 9:00 - 10:00am

Why: Let's come together on Pentecost Sunday
for a celebration of faith and family!

We will have cupcakes, games, and more! Don't miss this church-wide Faith Lutheran celebration!

A Crazy Kind of Faith

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” John 20:21

In the April Pastor’s Page and in much of what I have said since, I’ve tried to be clear about one aspect of the call that I have accepted. *This decision has nothing to do with Faith Lutheran or the way I feel about it.* But upon further reflection, I have come to conclude that *this decision has EVERYTHING to do with Faith Lutheran and the way I feel about it.* Before you think I am really confused or take this in the wrong way, let me explain.

For nearly 16 years, I have been marinated in this place called Faith Lutheran. I have happily and expectantly walked through these doors, morning after morning. And with each day brought a wide range of challenges and opportunities. Much of this is true for any pastor or any employee. Here is the difference. Over the course of these years, Faith Lutheran has consistently done things that other congregations generally don’t do. The list is long:

- ◆ What other congregation would attempt a two-site ministry in a town of 13,000 people?
- ◆ What other congregation would hear a missionary from India speak and form its own 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (New Hope Mission Society) to support it?
- ◆ What other congregation would call and deploy a pastor to the WordAlone Network?
- ◆ Leave it to Faith Lutheran to call a 3rd full time pastor and have her (unwittingly) cause a firestorm by having a pastor (rather than a bishop) ordain her.
- ◆ What other congregation would receive the gift of a 6,000 square foot building and turn it into a Hope Center that serves our whole community, despite our church’s need for space?
- ◆ What church dedicates a major building addition and votes to withdraw from its denomination at about the same time?
- ◆ What other congregation launches an inter-generational FaithLife Camp, which had 90 participants in its first year?
- ◆ What other youth group has so many going on a mission trip that YouthWorks must ask the local Fire Marshal to authorize more space?

I could go on, but I think you get my point about the kind of ministry I’ve experienced in these past years. When you hang around “edgy” and “out there” ministry like that, it starts to work on a person. Pretty soon you find yourself pulling up stakes and taking a part-time call to a mission start congregation. This is why I say that this decision actually has *EVERYTHING to do with Faith Lutheran and the way I feel about it.* This congregation does not ask “Why us?” Rather, it asks, “Why NOT us?” This congregation does not think that the call of God is for someone else or for some other time. I am confident that this is a “personality trait” of this congregation that will go on. But more than a personality trait, it is the call of the living God.

Faith Lutheran has left a deep imprint on Stephanie and me. We will always treasure this place. We leave with deep gratitude and thankfulness to you and to God. We will continue to pray for this congregation, especially leaders and staff in a time of transition. I have the same confidence about this congregation that St. Paul did about a congregation he knew well. “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion” (Philippians 1:6).

To God Be the Glory,
Pastor Randy Freund



Pastor Randy Freund

High 5 Kingdom Efficiency

High 5 is our giving theme at Faith Lutheran this year for lots of reasons. There are *5* goals we hope to reach, *5* special offerings to help us reach them, all so that Faith can reach *5* straight years of meeting all her ministry commitments without borrowing.

During May, there will be two giving challenges to help Faith be more efficient with its resources:

- ◆ The 2nd of the *High-5* special offerings will conclude on May 19. The *Pentecost Paydown* is an opportunity for extra or accelerated gifts to *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward*, to pay down more of the principal on Faith's building mortgage. The faster that amount is reduced, the lower the church's interest costs are.
- ◆ Faith Lutheran is offering a *Summer Special* on the Simply Giving program. Simply Giving electronically transfers offerings from checking or savings accounts to the church. The *Summer Special* is a chance to try out Simply Giving for three months—June, July and August—with the option to continue or not after that. It would be a big help for the church to have more consistent offerings during the summer, as well as a convenient way to give. Forms to sign up will be available at church or online at www.faithlc.com/giving-made-easy/

Watch for more information on these two opportunities and prayerfully consider accepting one or both!

What's Next for Faith Lutheran?

God's call for Pastor Randy to move to Perham is an opportunity for Faith to examine our staffing in light of the mission God has given us here. This transition process will include several steps:

1. The church council and ministry teams will use a retreat on May 4 to think through various options.
2. The congregation will be asked to provide feedback on the process in different formats.
3. When a final staffing plan is formulated, it will be presented to the congregation.
4. Candidates will then be sought and interviewed.
5. We *hope* to have any new staff members secured or in place by fall.





Making use of that terrible, late-in-the-season snowfall...

We took one of the missionaries from India sledding on April 18 during the blizzard. It was his first time seeing, and playing in snow. He only wiped out on the sled once, and we even taught him how to make snow angels!

Seniors Scene

The FLC Antiques Road Show

You've most likely seen the Antiques Road Show on television. In planning the programs for this year we thought it might be interesting to have a day of entertainment talking about antiques. Lynn Buck, who specializes in antiques, will be with us to further educate us about antiques, especially one you yourself will bring to the meeting (please, only 1 per person). Antiques are interesting, because they bring back memories of yesteryears. Even though we may be glad life is easier due to modern conveniences, memories of how it "used to be" warm our hearts, make us laugh and lift our spirits. SO... look over your closet, shelves, or some place in your home where you have stored something, maybe your parents or someone willed to you, and you didn't want to throw away. Maybe it has more dollar value than you thought. Or perhaps it just has some sentimental value that dollars can measure. Whatever... let's have some fun together reminiscing about the "good stuff" from yesteryears. Our meeting is **Thursday May 30, beginning at 12:00 noon.** Come, and bring friends!



Digging Deeper

Studies and small groups between worship services Sundays at 9:15am:

Now What? Christian Ethics

Living your faith in a confusing world
April 7 – May 12, 9:15am, Sanctuary

This class will explore how our Christian faith dictates how we approach certain issues and situations in life. We'll discuss the "how then shall we live" question in a respectful way.

Risen Indeed

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you... and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Luke 24:44

April 7 – May 12, 9:15am, Upstairs Conference Room

An exploration of the appearances of the Resurrected Jesus as told in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Come and see how everything hinges on the Resurrection.

Who Said, "Golden Years"?

A focus on aging

April 7- May 5, 9:15am, Faith Center

This course will explore some of the issues that face the elderly and those who experience life together with them, including care giving, housing changes, life histories, and faith.

Sunday School (for ages 3 years through 6th grade) and Confirmation (for 7th and 8th grades) are offered during the 9:15 Digging Deeper time. The Nursery is also open at 9:15 a.m.

Questions? 320-587-2093

Summer Outdoor Worship Services

Begin Sun. May 26
and run through Sun. Sept. 2

Join us in Hutchinson's Library
Square Park at 10am on Sundays!

Rain Site: Faith Lutheran Church Sanctuary



FaithLife Camp

Save the Date:

Aug. 23 - 25, 2013

Mount Carmel in Alexandria

Registration opens on May 5.



Spotlight on Seniors

The month of May is observed annually as aging month throughout the country. It's a time to focus on the elderly and their needs and contributions to our life together as citizens. We observe that in our congregation as well. Bless the Years Sunday is May 5. Our Seniors will provide for the radio broadcast of worship services that day. This year we added to the Digging Deeper series with four Sundays to learn more about issues and situations our elders and their families face as the years add on. Another major part of celebrating Seniors is "Spotlight on Seniors." We like to feature a couple of our members who have reached the ranks of "senior," and learn more about them and their life journey. This year we selected Dorothy Christensen and Gordy Tapper.

Gordy Tapper

"Gordy" (we never call him "Gordon") Tapper has been a member of Faith Lutheran Church ever since he moved to Hutchinson in 1947. He came here from the Twin Cities, where he worked a short time in an insurance office. He didn't like being "cooped up," so he began a career selling investments. He liked the business because he could meet with people, help them with their financial life and serve them in other ways as well. As an investment advisor, his philosophy followed this quote: *"It's not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you've lived."* When he became a district manager, he demonstrated that spirit by fostering a "family" spirit with his workers.

Life for Gordy began in Monticello, Minnesota, in 1925. He had one brother who was 5 years younger. His family lived across the street from the Methodist-Congregational Church they attended. He remembers Sunday School and some of his teachers with fondness. He and his brother went to Sunday School every Sunday, while his parents went to Sunday worship. Both parents were active in the congregation, but he sees his father as more influential in his spiritual development. He can't really describe how his faith grew and matured, but he knows things that developed in his life, like meeting his wife, Peg, and becoming interested in investment counseling, didn't just happen. He knows he was led through all these twists and turns in his life.

Memories remain with Gordy of summers spent with friends in the "sand eddys," which were out flowings of the Mississippi River. He loved swimming and playing in the sand dunes. He still loves athletics

and attends most Hutch Tigers football and basketball games. And while he doesn't carry a tune well, he loves music. As we visited for this article, we were listening to a DVD of his wife playing old time songs and hymns on an organ, enjoying memories of Peg providing background music in restaurants and hotel lobbies.

Gordy likes Faith Lutheran Church, partly because of its spiritual depth. While he appreciates his upbringing in the Methodist church, he realizes he did not get the depth of learning he now receives through worship and Bible study. Gordy rarely misses the 6:30am Thursday morning men's Bible Study. He says he knows God is still guiding his footsteps through life; the Holy Spirit is still guiding him. He feels his faith is especially inspired through the "old time hymns;" and wishes we would sing more of them.

Gordy, along with so many faithful Seniors at Faith, provide a solid base of what Peter in scripture called "living stones," clinging to the "Rock" of our faith, our Lord Jesus Christ.



Gordy & Peg Tapper

Dorothy Christensen

Dorothy was born and raised in Hutchinson, and lived here all her life. She was born on December 16, 1917, and was born at home. “People weren’t born in hospitals then,” she adds. She remembers her mother with great fondness, and was deeply grieved when she died very young. Dorothy was still in school when death came to her mother, and she was so stricken that she quit school, and never graduated from high school. Of course, a diploma wasn’t as important then as it is today. She later worked for 3M, and was employed there for 21 years.

One school memory was that she liked gymnastics. In her day it was one of the subjects she could take in place of some other class. Her teacher, she relates, was from Denmark. She still likes to watch the Olympic gymnastics on television.

Dorothy has fond memories of being called a “River Rat,” along with many other children. During the summer they spent many hours swimming in the Crow River, jumping from a high tower constructed for diving. During winter she did a lot of ice skating.

She had four brothers, who were very good to her as the only sister. One brother, who was very mechanical, got her interested in riding motorcycles. She mostly rode as a passenger on her brother’s cycle, but also rode herself. It was all a part of the mechanical skills the family learned from her dad.

Dorothy’s dad operated a wood mill, and owned 2 threshing machines for harvest time. That kept the family employed, and they worked very hard. But she thought it was fun as well. While she loved her dad, she regrets that he did not attend worship. “That was a bummer,” she says. Her mother saw to it that the children attended worship, Sunday School and were confirmed, and kept them related to the church. She loved it when Pastor Hansen visited in their home. She thought he was very nice. She recalls memorizing Bible

verses, the Catechism and some hymns during confirmation instruction.

Dorothy felt the power of her faith when she was pregnant with her second boy. She had appendicitis during the pregnancy, and had to wait out the pain. She could not have medications or surgery until after the baby boy was born, or she would have lost him. Her faith and prayers sustained her during those 6 weeks in the hospital.

Recently she had to call on that faith God gave her again, as she needed to move from her home of over 40 years to Prince of Peace living center. While she knew it was the right thing to do, she did not relish the hard adjustment to major change. But she came through that and feels it was the best solution for her. She likes it there now, especially as she gets more acquainted with other residents.

Dorothy thinks her congregation is “wonderful; doing so many things.” She appreciates being able to see and hear the worship services on television and radio. And she welcomes the pastors to her nice apartment for monthly communion visits.

God bless you, Dorothy; and thank you for sharing a bit of your history as a child of God.



Dorothy Christensen

stump the pastor

Q: How can I ask God for help in times of need?

A: At a basic level, the answer is really simple: just ask. Prayer is simply conversation with God.

We can talk to God at any time, about any problem, anywhere. I wonder, though, if behind this question is concern not about our asking, but God's answering. What will God do if I ask for something that is contrary to His will? How can I discern God's answer when nothing seems clear to me? If no answer is apparent, did God say "no" or just ignore me?

Those questions do not have such simple answers, but the Bible and the experience of many faithful people offer some clues.

In Matthew 7, Jesus promised that God always hears our prayers. "If you...who are evil (sinful) know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?"

In Luke 18, Jesus told a parable that encourages us to be bold and persistent in our prayers. He ended it by saying, "Will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night?...I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them."

Just like an earthly parent, our heavenly Father does not say "yes" to every request we make. Jesus himself prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane to avoid the suffering that lay ahead, but God's determination to save the world through him was more important.

God's answers come in many ways — through the Scriptures, the leading of the Holy Spirit, conversation with loved ones or trusted friends, events that come together unexpectedly, and a multitude of others. See Acts 16:6-10 for a good example.

God is "a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1), even when He helps us to endure our troubles, rather than take them away.

The great promise of our faith is that God knows us. God forms a relationship of love and trust with us, so that we can cling to God and His word—with hope and confidence—come what may. And, because of that relationship, we can bring all our sorrows, joys, needs and troubles to God in prayer, trusting through Jesus, even when God's will for us is not clear.



Faith News

Club 218 Applications are available now in the church office and at: faithlc.com/about/formsathome

Quilters are needed! Men, women, teens welcome. No experience needed—people are needed to do tie quilting. Meet 1st Wed. of the month, 9am to noon. Quilts are made for the homeless, people overseas, and local fire victims. Willing to change the meeting time to accommodate new quilters. Call 587-2093 if interested.



The final **Mentor Meeting** for confirmation students and their mentors will be Wed. May 1 at 5:30pm. Look for a postcard reminder.

The Discipleship Team is planning a **Community Service Sunday** for June 23. Volunteers from our church and our community will help with projects around the city. See the insert in this newsletter for more information.

There will be a **Befriender Meeting** at 1pm on Mon. May 6. Contact Marsha Schmit 320-234-8400 if you would like information on this visitation and friendship ministry.

We will recognize Faith's **graduating high school**

seniors during the outdoor worship service on June 2.

We are going through the process of recording and analyzing results from the **Faith Lutheran Communications Survey** (given in worship on Sun. April 14). Preliminary notes from the survey have shown trends that will influence our communications strategy — stay tuned!

If you have any questions about an event on Faith's calendar (see reverse) please call the church office. 320-587-2093

Faith Lutheran Church Women

Thank you to everyone who donated and worked at the **Rummage Sale**. We got to clean out, find things we love, and donate to Common Cup, the Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter, the hospital thrift shop, and WCI, along with supporting our women's ministry. Our profit is \$1625, minus advertising. Thirty percent goes toward the mortgage principle.

The annual **Garden Tour and Luncheon** is **Sat. July 20**. Call Bobbi Knudson 587-2227 if you can display your yard or know of a beautiful garden in the area. Due to cooking safety regulations, food for fundraisers must be made onsite. We are asking for a \$10 donation from our women and volunteers to make and serve the food. A sign up sheet is in the church office.

Thanks to all who helped serve the potluck on April 21!

Dates to Remember...

Sun. May 5
Bless the Years
Sunday

Celebration of Faith's
Senior Members

Mon. May 6
9am - 4pm LifeLine
Screening

Health screenings
provided at the church;
pre-registration was
required

Sun. May 19
Pentecost

9-10am Birthday Party for
the Church (see cover)

6-8pm Freund Open House
(see cover)

Sun. May 26
10am First Outdoor
Worship Service
Library Square Park

Mon. May 27
Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

Thurs. May 30
Noon Seniors Potluck
(see p. 4)



Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com	
Pastors	
Randy Freund rfreund@hutchtel.net 587-9594 (home)	Paul Knudson paulk@faithlc.com 587-2227 (home)
Scott Grorud scottg@faithlc.com 587-0171 (home)	Paulus Pilgrim , Visitation paulusp@faithlc.com 234-9753 (home)
Staff	
Jim Brodd , Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net
Sue Graff , Worship Coordinator	sueg@faithlc.com
Julie Guggemos , Administrative Assistant	julieg@faithlc.com
Kacie Lange , Children & Family Ministry	kaciel@faithlc.com
Keith Lange , Maintenance	
Diane Pedersen , Finance	dianep@faithlc.com
Marsha Schmit , Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan , Youth & Family Ministry	davidw@faithlc.com

Thoughts and Prayers

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

Andrew Hantge (Navy, Everett, WA - son of Marsha Schmit and Robert Hantge)
 Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC - son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)
 Lt Col Katie McCormick (granddaughter of Liz Krasen)
 CAPT Gail Hathaway (Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX - daughter of Marlin & Ruth Torgerson)
 CAPT James Lapse (active duty - nephew of Lorraine Burch)
 SFC Guy Sing (Iraq - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
 Colten Hughes (Fort Carson, CO - son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)
 Justin Olsen (Behring, Kuwait - Son of Sharon Grivna and Jerry Olsen)
 Sgt. Jason Gaulke (Afghanistan - nephew of Alice Fransen)
 Anthony Kollors (Afghanistan - grandson-in-law of Ken Holler)
 SPC Tyler Lauer (Afghanistan - son of Brian & Cyndi Lauer)
 Jens and Anders Gylland (Afghanistan - nephews of Randy & Stephanie Freund)

Remember our Faith members in Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Lakeside (Dassel)

Eloi Hamre

Joanne Olesen

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Peg Tapper

Glencoe

Betty Garberich

Harmony River

Valerie Fimon

Agnes Rettman

Helen Goertzen

Lorraine Burch

Charles Kisling

Clarence Kulberg

Carolyn Fausch

Jacque Crowell