

# Faith Matters

April 2015

## Holy Week @ Faith Lutheran

### **Palm Sunday**

March 29

8:00 a.m. Worship  
10:10 a.m. Worship  
Sanctuary and  
Foundation



### **Maundy Thursday**

April 2

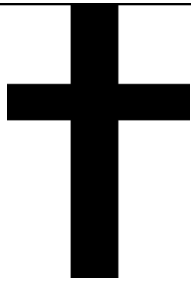
6:00 & 7:30 p.m.  
Worship with  
Holy Communion  
*6th Grade First  
Communion*



### **Good Friday**

April 3

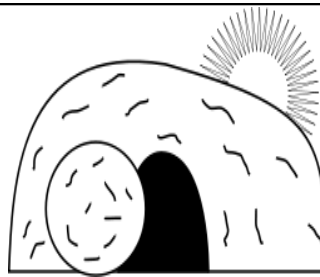
Noon Worship @ Faith  
6:30 p.m. Worship @  
Christ the King



### **Holy Saturday**

April 4

7 p.m.  
Compline  
Worship



### **Easter Sunday**

April 5

6, 8, 9:30, 11 a.m. with  
Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast 7-10am

If all goes as usual, this issue of *Faith Matters* will arrive during Holy Week, which marks the last week of Jesus' earthly life. It begins on Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday is the night Jesus instituted Holy Communion at the Last Supper and Judas betrayed him into the hands of his enemies. His life tragically ended on Good Friday, when he was crucified, but then, after the long wait through Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday brought the astounding news that God had raised Jesus from the dead. Holy Week takes us into the very heart of God's saving work in Jesus Christ.

## Pastor's Page

That is why it is called *Holy Week*. "Holy" means "set aside for God's special use." It does not indicate a particular quality or characteristic of a person or object, but its purpose. Something that is holy is designated for God's service and work, and is to be used for His purposes. So, Holy Week is a key period of time set aside for God's special, saving use.

In that sense, Holy Week has long been something of a puzzle in the Christian Church. While it is set aside as a way for believers to walk with Jesus through his suffering and death, it has rarely been *used* as much as it should. Christian churches everywhere are packed on Easter Sunday, but that is rarely the case on the other key days of Holy Week.

It has always seemed rather scandalous that no Christian church (as far as I know) has to schedule as many services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday as it does on Easter Sunday. Why is that? Why do Christians not just clamor to join the crowds shouting "Hosanna," sit with the disciples around the Last Supper or stand with the faithful women at the foot of the cross? These events secured our salvation. They form the basis of our faith and hope. Holy Week, above all, should motivate Christians to make worship and devotion their top priority.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

(Continued from Pastor's Page)

If you have followed the journey of Holy Week in past years, you know the powerful rhythm of walking with Jesus from the adoring crowds all the way to the empty tomb. If you are not accustomed to taking in all of the Holy Week services, I urge you to do so this year. Here is the schedule:

† Palm Sunday, March 29—Regular worship schedule with Sunday School and Digging Deeper

† Maundy Thursday, April 2—Worship with Holy Communion at 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

*First Communion students will receive the sacrament for the first time at these services.*

*Note that these times are **one-half hour earlier** than in recent years to accommodate families.*

† Good Friday, April 3—Joint service with Christ the King, Noon at Faith, 6:30 p.m. at CtK

† Holy Saturday, April 4—A special Compline service at 7:00 p.m., leading into Easter.

† Easter Sunday, April 5—6:00 Sunrise, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services.

*Easter Breakfast will be served by FLY Youth from 7:00 to 10 a.m.*

*The 11:00 a.m. service will be done in the style of the Foundation service.*

Holy Week is the most significant time in our Christian faith. Enter into the gracious mystery of our salvation as we mark the culmination of Jesus' life and ministry in the joyful and anguished events of that fateful week.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Grorud

**FaithLife**  
Camp

**Aug. 14-16, 2015**

Mount Carmel Ministries

Registrations are open now  
for the 2015 FaithLife Camp.

Carve out a weekend for  
time away from all the  
busyness of everyday life.

Brochures available  
in the church office  
or call 320-587-2093  
with questions.

## Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

### Pastors

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# SENIORS SCENE

Warm weather---in March! How well do we like this? Warm temperatures after frigid days do energize us. I overheard someone talking about putting plants out in their garden. I see an increase of adults walking and young people on skates, skate boards and bicycles. Sure, we might have snow yet. But spring is pushing its way in upon us, isn't it?

Just as Lent will soon be overcome by Easter. That message of Jesus, following a horrible death and looking like He's done in, rising victorious from His tomb, as the "first fruits" of throngs of us who will follow some day. How energizing is it to live in faith in that promise from Jesus Himself!? We treasure Jesus' words, repeatedly, in John 6, "**...and I will raise you up on the last day.**" Our hope and prayer is that it will instill fresh energy in following, serving and witnessing to our Lord and His saving will for all people.

So, Happy Easter! May God bless you with a fresh spirit of promise in this Easter season.

**SENIORS POTLUCK** meets this month on **April 30<sup>th</sup>**, the very last day of the month. Traditionally this is our **3:00pm** meeting with residents at The Pines. Perhaps you've heard me say that they frequently ask me if you are coming again this year. So I hope you are planning to come, bringing the love and joy of faith in Jesus inside you. The Oaks people are asked to come over also.

Last year we had a big crowd reminisce together about things and times in the past. We'll do some more of that with Brad Burch and his fairly new program of bringing the past into the present, for our enjoyment. "Remember when.....?" How many thoughts come when we begin a sentence with those two words? I hope you look forward to a good time together.

**REMEMBER: Seniors Potluck, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm, at The Pines.** Bring treats for all to share after the program.

## stump the pastor

**Q:** *(This question has appeared before in Stump the Pastor, but it arises every year around this time.)* Christmas is always on the same date. Why does Easter move around every year?

**A:** Unlike most other events in Jesus' life, the Bible is quite specific about when his crucifixion and resurrection occurred. All four accounts of the Gospel tie those events to the Jewish festival of Passover.

The date of Passover, however, is still determined by the lunar calendar (based on the phases of the moon), as it was in Jesus' day. A lunar calendar does not match the solar calendar used today, so the date of Easter moves around on our calendar. It is almost always celebrated in the same week as Passover, although different reckonings of the lunar calendar sometimes separate them. Also because of different calendar reckonings, Orthodox churches (Eastern, Greek, Russian, etc.) use a different date for Easter, often a week or two after churches (like Faith) that come from the Western tradition.

The date of Easter is determined by this formula: the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. In this formula, March 21 is always considered the date of the vernal equinox, even though in many years (like this one) spring actually begins on March 20. So, the earliest possible date for Easter is March 22 and the latest is April 25.

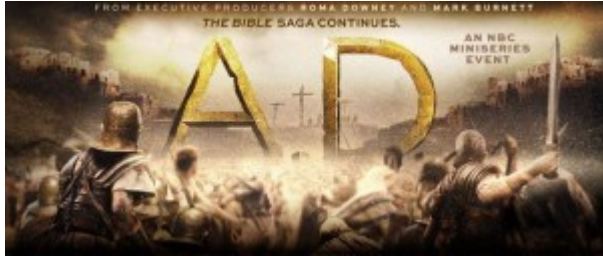
## Rummage Sale! April 16, 17 & 18.

You may start bringing items to the area outside the office on Mon., April 13 from 8am to 7pm. Items include furniture, books, toys, kitchenware, clothes, tools, linens, garage items, crafts, garden items, CD's, movies, and decorative items. *No large exercise equipment, appliances, TV's or computers, please.* Sign up to help by the office or sanctuary. This is a great opportunity to clean out and find treasures at rock bottom prices. Proceeds go toward women's ministries and 30% to the mortgage.



# Digging Deeper

Short-term studies are offered on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Dig deeper at Faith Lutheran with these new classes, beginning April 12, 2015.



## **A.D. The Bible Continues**

9:15 a.m. starting April 12

Two years ago, *The Bible* television mini-series drew huge audiences, but also stirred up quite a bit of theological controversy. This year, starting on Easter Sunday, a follow-up series called *A.D. The Bible Continues* will air. How will Hollywood portray the early Christian Church? Watch each week's episode, then come the next Sunday to compare and contrast it with the original, *The Acts of the Apostles*. This is one case where the book IS actually better than the movie! (The mini-series lasts longer than this session of Digging Deeper, but we will consider the first six episodes.)

## **Faith @ Work**

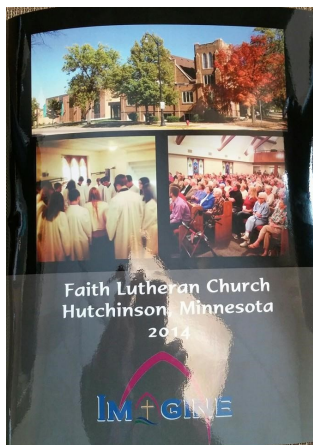
9:15 a.m. starting April 12

This class will highlight different ways Faith's faith is at work in our church, community, and around the world. Learn about mission partnerships and movements, enjoy a Mingle Box intergenerational conversation, and find out how to plug in.

## **New Member Class**

9:15 a.m. (April 19 - May 3) Upstairs Conference Room

A great joy of church life is welcoming new members into our family of Faith. This class will start on Sunday, April 19, in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor conference room. It concludes on May 3, followed by reception of new members at the 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary service. This class is designed for new members, but all who want to brush up on basic Lutheranism or become reacquainted with our church are welcome.



## **Pictorial Directories**

A reminder that if you had your picture taken for the directory you will receive a free copy of the directory. If you have not picked yours up yet they are available in the church office.

## Music Notes



With Easter fast approaching, it feels like I've called or e-mailed every musician in the church looking for special music. However, I know I've missed a few! If you're interested in doing special music during any of the services, contact me and let me know. I can assist in selecting music, rehearsing music, and accompanying your special music offering.

The choir and bell choir are always welcome to new members, although their season is coming to end. If you'd like to be a part of the second annual hymn sing, on April 29, consider joining either ensemble as we take a look at an old Lutheran tradition.

The summer worship schedule will be planned soon and if you'd like to volunteer to help with the set up on Sunday mornings, the Music and Worship Team would be excited to schedule for you a date and a task.

Consider visiting our Compline service the first Sunday of each month in the sanctuary. We explore themes through scripture, a message, and an element as well as sing new and old songs in a contemporary atmosphere. (note: April's Compline will be held on the first Saturday of April, before Easter.)



# Capital Campaign

In March, the contract for deed that Faith held on the old Faith on Grove church building was paid off in the amount of \$125,500. Those proceeds, combined with gifts given to the *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* and *Imagine* capital campaigns, allowed us to make an ***extra \$300,000 principal payment*** on the mortgage!

Less than five years (20%) into our 25-year mortgage, the church has already retired 27% of the principal, has shaved nearly seven years off the life of the loan and is already paying more principal than interest each month. Plus, we will soon request our annual re-amortization of the mortgage. That will reduce our *required* monthly payment, but the church has continued to make the original, higher payment every month. That means paying down even more principal each month.

All of this is possible only because of your faithful support of the *Imagine* and previous capital campaigns. **Thank You** for investing in the ministry space Faith needs. If you have not yet joined the Faith family in supporting this important endeavor, it is never too late. Give us a call or stop by and we will give you all the information.

## Why Give? A Reflection on Biblical Stewardship

One Biblical phrase that has worked its way into everyday language comes from I Timothy 6, “Money is the root of all evil.” The world provides plenty of evidence to back up that conviction, so even people who have no idea it comes from the Bible will use it.

That oft-repeated quote, however, is not accurate. I Timothy does not say that “money is the root of all evil,” but rather that “the *love* of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” Money, in and of itself, is not bad. Quite the contrary, it is a good, powerful gift of God. It only causes trouble when people start to love it—putting their trust in the money God provides rather than God who provides it. That is when all sorts of evil—greed, fraud, coveting, stealing and many others—inevitably follow.

One important reason for Christians to give is to keep money in its proper place. Because of the power it has, giving money away is not very natural. We would much rather keep it. To give it away reminds us that money is a tool God gives us to provide for our needs, the good of our neighbor and the proclamation of the Gospel—but only a tool, nothing more.

So give generously of what God has first given you. Each offering you make will reinforce what money can do and, just as importantly, what it cannot.

## Monthly Financial Update

	Actual YTD	Budget	Budget
	3/20/2015	2015	Remaining
General Fund Income	149,735	762,219.00	618,220.46
General Fund Expenses	162,097	762,219.00	600,121.80
General Fund Net Income/Loss	(12,362)		
Average weekly giving needed to reach budget		\$14,658.06	
Average monthly giving needed to reach budget		\$63,518.25	



# FAITH IN ACTION

## New, Modest Priced Van Now Serves the Mission of NHMS in India

Pastor K.K., son Abdul, and other leaders of the Bishara mission and Bible College rejoice that it was possible for NHMS to provide a much needed van that will be used in so many ways to extend their witness to Jesus Christ among Muslims. Pictured you see a mission team of girls preparing to go out on an outreach mission sharing Christian literature in Muslim areas.



Through a significant personal gift and an interest free loan from another FLC family, this new vehicle, at a cost of under \$6,500, will serve this mission well. Faith Lutheran Church and New Hope Mission Society continue to step out in faith to bear witness to the Good News found only in Jesus Christ.

## One of FLC's Mission Partners Calls For Our Response to Critical Food Shortage



Friends of Madagascar Mission draws our attention to people they are serving in southwest Madagascar facing starvation. Presently the only readily available food is the cactus fruit, which has little nutritional value and can create serious intestinal obstructions.

When this food source is depleted, people will eat ashes mixed with white dirt simply to give them the sensation of being filled. It has no food value.

FOMM has a nutritional program through a large Lutheran Hospital in the region that is being severely burdened. Gifts given will be directed to this nutritional program to help meet some of the need.

FLC is sending \$1,000 now out of its budgeted 2015 commitment to meet hunger needs. Members can give to this need through FLC or send a gift directly to: FOMM at PO Box 46381, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Mark it clearly for "Ejeda Nutrition Emergency Fund."

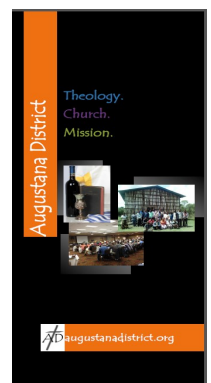
### **Augustana District Convention** *8 a.m. Saturday, April 25, 2015*

At Christ the King Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN

Theme: Hope for the Long Haul

Guest Speaker: Pastor Steve Lien, LCMC Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry

Registration and Schedule information available in the office.



# Thoughts and Prayers

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**MARCH 29 -**  
**APRIL 5**

Holy Week

**SAT. APRIL 5**

7 p.m. Compline  
*Note Change in Day*

**SAT. APRIL 11**

9 a.m. Church Council  
Retreat

**SUN. APRIL 12**

9:15 a.m. New Digging  
Deeper options begin

**APRIL 16 - 18**

Faith Lutheran  
Rummage Sale

**SUN. APRIL 19**

2:30 Faith Family Fun  
Day, Bowling

**TUES. APRIL 21**

Ministry Teams and  
Church Council  
Meetings

**SAT. APRIL 25**

Augustana District  
Convention

**SUN. MAY 31**

Outdoor Worship begins

**JUNE 15, 17, 19**

VBS 3-6 year old

**JULY 20-24**

VBS 1st-5th Graders

**AUG. 14 - 16**

FaithLife Camp

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)

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

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

## Mingle Box Event Sunday, May 3

The Mingle Box was the physical design that we used to create a Faith-based Intergenerational Conversation between our FLC youth and the FLC adults. This is designed to be an opportunity to witness to others based on the experiences and stories we all have of Christ's work in our lives and learn from others while we enjoy the fellowship of our Christian friends.

We gather in the Faith Center during a designated Digging Deeper session where two current Confirmation students will lead a conversation with up to six adults at each table. The topics of conversation, all contained in a small "Mingle Box", range from favorite Bible verses or Bible stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God's work in our life.

There will be assorted treats and beverages to accompany the conversation.

Generally, it is a wonderful time of witness to the power of God's love and work in our lives!

Please join us Sunday, May 3 in the Faith Center during the Digging Deeper time!

Remember our Faith  
members in Nursing  
Homes & Health Care  
Centers

### Cedar Crest - Cosmos

Patricia Lambert

### Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Nadine Dalin

### Harmony River

Millie Blake

Valerie Fimon

Clarence Kulberg

Joanne Olesen

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Sylvia Peterson

### Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

### Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

### Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Betty Garberich

Eleanor Lack

Ruth McKay

Lucille Yukel

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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:

**F**OLLOW JESUS

**A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

**I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE

**T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

**H**ELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED