

# Faith Matters

## The Problem. The Challenge.

The church council had a lively discussion in March as it reviewed Faith Lutheran's current financial status. The short version: **offerings have been significantly lower in the first months of 2014 than in previous years.** In January, giving dropped by 16% from what it had been just one year earlier.

While the council discussed this problem, many questioned how to communicate it to the congregation. This was not a question of logistics. Church leaders want to get the word out that Faith needs increased offerings, without creating a culture where people only give when there is a crisis. We remain thankful to the faithful people of this church who continue to support it, while still asking that they, and everyone else, step up and do more.

### The Problem

Faith Lutheran reached several significant financial goals at the end of 2013. We met all our mission commitments with no borrowing for a 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. We paid off

all the operating debt from prior years when the church did have to borrow. We expanded our staff while reducing budgeted expenses for 2014. With all this, we still retained an \$18,000 cash balance entering 2014.

Despite spending below our already lowered budget, Faith already faces a \$35,000 deficit in 2014. Because of this, our church does not have funds to give timely support to ministries like Common Cup. We may soon be in a position of having to borrow again to meet basic monthly expenses.

We have so much to be thankful for as we begin 2014. But the many gifts Faith received at the end of 2013 seem to have created a sense of giving fatigue. With summer and the traditional drop in giving not far off, this is deeply troubling. We may be playing catch-up for the rest of 2014. Faith's leaders have worked hard for five years to improve the fiscal health of our

church dramatically. Now is the time to move forward, not to slip backward!

### The Challenge

One thing seems clear as we write this on the first day of spring. It is time to challenge the church on its approach to and reasons for giving. That's right. We're extending a challenge to you.

**We challenge you to discover the joy that comes with giving.** Let's break the cycle of lurching from crisis to crisis. Let's respond in generous gratitude to the boundless blessings God pours out on us. Let's commit to the mission God is doing through Faith Lutheran. Please prayerfully consider your giving in light of how God has blessed you.

**We challenge you to recognize that giving equals mission.** We will show you glimpses of what this means throughout 2014. Faith's freedom from operating debt increases our ability to further the work of God's kingdom. The people of Faith can do face-to-face ministry in our own community, but the dollars you give can be easily used at home and sent all over the earth. We still have the potential in 2014 to provide and support ministries both at home and around the world.

**We challenge you to continue to give generously.** Even as we thank God for Faith's much-improved financial condition, we also challenge Faith's members to give generously as God first blesses us, so that we can support more Christian work here and around the world. Just imagine what new and important work God can do through us for Jesus' sake in 2014!

# Giving = Mission

giving joyfully, growing ministry

# Pastor's Page

## Holy Week @ Faith Lutheran

### Palm Sunday

April 13  
8:00am Worship  
9:15 Digging Deeper,  
Sunday School,  
Confirmation  
10:10am Worship

### Maundy Thursday

April 17  
6:30 & 8:00pm Worship  
with Holy Communion

*6th Grade First Communion*

### Good Friday

April 18  
Noon Worship @ Christ the  
King  
6:30pm Worship @ Faith  
Lutheran

### Easter Sunday

April 20  
6:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am  
Worship with Holy  
Communion  
Easter Breakfast 7-10am

there i was,  
rejected and dejected,  
pushed-out and washed-up,  
scarred and torn,  
beaten and battered.

there i was,  
prideful and stubborn,  
sinful and boastful,  
comfortable and cozy,  
confident and cool.

there i was,  
ashamed and embarrassed,  
timid and scared,  
self-loathing and rotten,  
filthy and broken.

there i was,  
but there He was,  
beaten and battered,  
scorned and mocked,  
burdened and cursed,  
crucified and killed.

now i am  
cleaned and cured,  
strong and pure,  
forgiven and free,  
empowered and saved.

what i was,  
what i did,  
what He was,  
what He did,

so i am  
His  
by David Wollan

I wrote this poem during Lent in 1996, back in my college days.

I love it because it describes what happens when my story intersects with His story. It describes how who Jesus is and what Jesus has done changes who I am, whose I am, and what I do.

What's your story? What are you ashamed of, addicted to, overly-prideful of, apathetic about, struggling with, and blind to?

April 13-20 is the most important week of the year. It is the week during which we experience who He was and what He did. It is a week during which we experience again how Jesus takes washed-up, no good sinners like you and me and makes us clean and beautiful.

April 13-20 is Holy Week. It is the week during which we discover again how His story intersects with our story. It begins on Palm Sunday, April 13. The journey continues on Maundy Thursday, as Jesus shares his Last Supper with his friends. Good Friday is the most powerful day of the year. And Easter Sunday is the grand finale. Don't miss a day.

Come. Come and worship. From the Entry, to the Supper, to the Cross, to the Empty Tomb. Holy Week at Faith Lutheran.

See you there,  
[Pastor Dave](#)

# Wendy Toops

## Director of Children and Family Ministry

Get to Know the New Member of Faith's Staff!



Thank you all for welcoming me into the Faith Lutheran Church family. I was born and raised in New London, Minnesota, an hour northwest of Hutchinson, and graduated from New London-Spicer High School in 2008. I then embarked on my college journey at Minnesota State University Moorhead. After growing up in a family of teachers, I graduated with a major in Health and Physical Education, a minor in Coaching, and a certificate in Developmental Adaptive Physical Education. In my last semester of college, I student taught in the Fargo area and realized I love working with youth and children.

After graduation in 2013, I chose to take a leap of faith. Instead of spending my summer at home preparing for my teacher licensure exams and applying for teaching positions, I worked for YouthWorks! Ministries in Wanblee, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (my second summer there). That community taught me what it truly means to bask in God's creation, how to love unconditionally, the true value of relationships, and that the definition of family has no boundaries. My passion for children's ministry came from my time spent with the community kids in Wanblee. I could talk for days about my time in South Dakota. If you ever want to hear about it, just ask! When summer ended, I returned from South Dakota and moved to Minneapolis, where I worked for Delta Airlines as a Gate Agent for 6 months. One Sunday I attended the 8:00am service at Faith and heard an announcement about the opening for the Director of Children and Family Ministries. I just knew in my heart I should at least apply.

I am honored to be part of Faith Lutheran and to get to know my new and vibrant church family. I love to sew, knit, crochet, do carpentry, play Frisbee, drink tea, bake, craft, journal, etc. Feel free to visit me at church, set up a time to go to coffee, or surprise me with an adventure. I desire to get to know you and create lifelong friendships. I often joke that as a child your parents tell you to ask, "Will you be my friend?" so I argue that in adulthood that that doesn't have to change. So, let's be best friends!

-Wendy Toops

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# Gemechis Buba to Visit Hutchinson

We are blessed to have Dr. Gemechis Buba come to Hutchinson April 26-27. Originally from Ethiopia, Dr. Buba is a pastor, Biblical scholar, entrepreneur and evangelist. He currently lives in Atlanta and serves as the Assistant to the Bishop for Missions in the North American Lutheran Church, but he also leads several other significant mission programs. Pastor Scott Grorud has known Gemechis for many years. He is a captivating preacher and teacher.

On Saturday, April 26, Dr. Buba will be the keynote speaker at the Augustana District's annual convention. The convention will be held here at Faith and will also include a presentation on how to understand and teach a distinctly Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith. Cost to attend the full event (8am to 4pm) is \$30 (including lunch). Please contact the Faith Lutheran Church office to RSVP. **Members of Faith Lutheran and Christ the King Lutheran** can sign up at the door to attend the **morning worship and keynote session from Dr. Buba for \$15** (does not include lunch or afternoon session). Registration begins at 8am, and worship begins at 9am.

On Sunday, April 27, Dr. Buba will preach at all three of Faith's worship services in the morning. To simplify the process for him and allow him plenty of time, his sermon will be streamed live from the Sanctuary service to the Foundation service that morning.

You do not want to miss the opportunity to hear this amazing servant of God. Dr. Buba travels almost constantly all over the globe. It is a rare privilege to have him with us in person that weekend.



## Dr. Gemechis Buba

### Sat. April 26

Augustana District Convention at Faith Lutheran Church

- \$30 for all day event
- \$15 for morning pass

### Sun. April 27

Preaching at all three Faith Lutheran Worship Services



# Digging Deeper

Short-term studies are offered on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Dig deeper at Faith Lutheran with these new classes, beginning April 27:

## **J. S. Bach: The Lutheran Rock Star**

*9:15am (April 27 - May 18) Music Room*  
Arguing about organs? Challenging theory? Fighting bassoonists? Bach spoke his mind and did it all for the glory of God. He was a musical bad boy in the Lutheran church, but with scripture and the church as his catalyst. While his music may not be as exciting to our generations today, his views and harmonies were anything but ordinary in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. During this Digging Deeper session, you will learn about the development of ideas, music, and theology through Bach's life and music.

## **Listening to Our Elders**

*9:15am (April 27 - May 18) Faith Center*  
Materials and individuals will focus on what it's like to grow older and what part Christian faith plays in later years. We will hear about needs of the homebound, Alzheimer's disease, and the Seniors Task Force plans for a visitation program.

## **The Skeptical Believer: You and Your Inner Atheist**

*9:15am (April 27 - May 18) Sanctuary*  
Do you have doubts? Do you wrestle with unbelief? Welcome to the club! This class will be a conversation about faith and doubt, our stories and God's story. We'll base our discussions on Daniel Taylor's book and presentations. Questions and skepticism welcome!

## **New Member Class**

*9:15am (April 27 - May 18) 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 27, in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor conference room. It concludes on May 18, followed by reception of new members at the 10:10am Sanctuary service. This class is designed for new members, but all who want to brush up on basic Lutheranism or become re-acquainted with our church are welcome.

# Compline

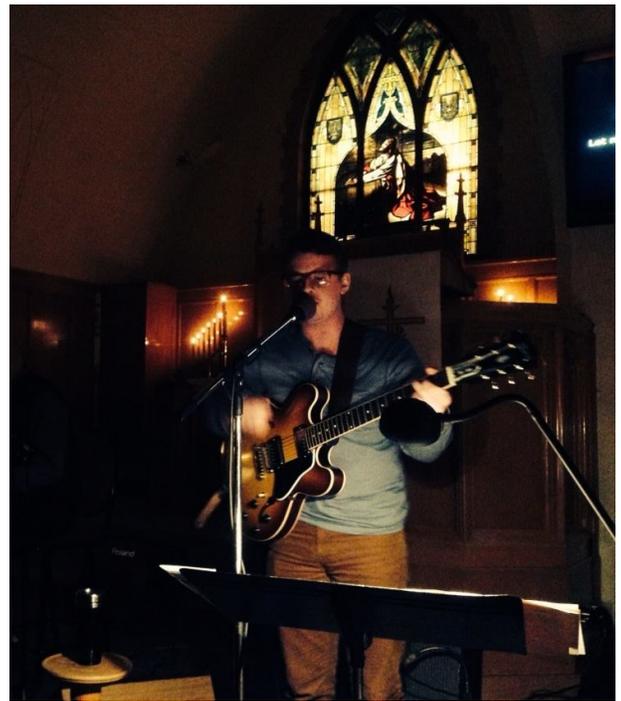
*evening praise*

First Sunday of the Month  
7:00pm @ Faith Lutheran Church  
335 Main St. S. in Hutchinson



A monthly worship experience at Faith.  
Music Driven. Candlelit. Jesus Centered.  
Come as you are. We'll provide the music.

Visit [FaithLC.com/Compline](http://FaithLC.com/Compline) for full details.



## FaithLife Camp

Aug. 15-17, 2014

Mount Carmel, Alexandria, MN

Registrations are open now for the 2014 FaithLife Camp. Carve out a weekend for time away from all the busyness of everyday life. [Click here for more information and a brochure.](#) Brochures are also available at Faith Lutheran Church. With questions, call 320-587-2093.



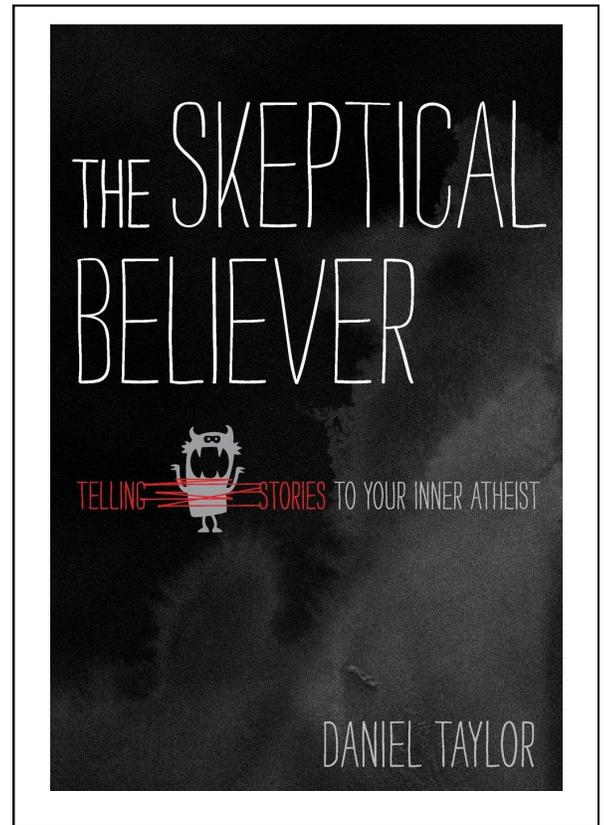
AUTHOR

# Daniel Taylor

Saturday, April 5

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Faith Lutheran Church  
335 Main St. S. in Hutchinson  
This is a free, all-ages event.



Don't miss [Dr. Daniel Taylor's special presentation](#) at Faith Lutheran Church:

## **Going on a Bear Hunt: Skepticism, Risk and Story in the Life of Faith"**

In a world where little seems certain, how does a person with a questioning mind find the confidence to believe in God? What about all the objections to faith—modern, post-modern and otherwise? How about your own objections? Answer: you are called to live a story, not solve a puzzle. (Below: Dr. Taylor speaking at FLYouth Night on Wed. March 26.)



# SENIORS SCENE

When I was a child (and in early youth as well), I always dreaded Lent. It meant an extra worship service for 6 weeks, and then a week of special services... Maundy Thursday, Good Friday... not a young child's first choice. Easter always seemed like release from prison, especially if the weather was nice. I could play basketball or baseball after school on Wednesday nights, not get dressed for church. I'm ashamed to admit to this childish perspective now. Especially since I now look forward to Lent as time for deepening and enrichment of my faith, as I walk with Jesus to the cross, fully realizing Easter, with its promise of new life in Christ, comes quickly after crucifixion. It is a time to experience the amazing grace of a Savior Who willingly goes to that cross for me.

At some point in our imaginary walk to the cross, Jesus lets go of my hand and moves on alone. I become an observer of Jesus' crucifixion. I do not experience the nails or the excruciating thirst or the terrible suffering, though my sinfulness says I really should. Jesus is taking on MY sin. He is enduring MY punishment. Why am I not there, suffering with Him? Of course, the answer is clear in Scripture. He is my ransom.

St. Paul says, "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (II Cor. 5:21). And Peter says, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed." (I Peter 2:24). I should be on that cross; Jesus is instead, "For You," He says.

So Easter, celebrated on April 20, is God's final declaration of triumph over my sin, my death, my condemnation. As Jesus arose, so will I — HIS PROMISE! Every day, in fact, is a "little Easter" in which God gives us His Spirit to lift us out of our enslavement to all wrongs and priorities, to live first and

foremost for Him. God bless us all with this Good News!

We can share a bit of Easter joy in our Seniors Potluck meeting this month, with the residents of The Oaks and The Pines. In previous years we've met at The Oaks. This year we'll switch to The Pines, where we'll meet in their dining/community room for program and treats. As always, we change the meeting time to 3:00pm, and bring treats to share following the program. We have 9 Faith Lutheran people at The Pines and 3 members at The Oaks. They'll look forward to your coming. And so do the others. Special program to be announced later.

A word of thanks needs to go out to Maynard Holtz. Maynard just resigned from the Seniors Ministry Task Force last month. Others have resigned before, but the reason this deserves mention is that Maynard has been a part of this task force since its inception, and has contributed to all its decisions, work and innovation. Much of what FLC Seniors have experienced through FLC that is positive and enjoyable has been due to Maynard's enthusiasm and energy. Maynard wants to focus more on bringing old time music to facilities where elders live. A hearty thanks, Maynard; and God bless you!



# stump the pastor

**Q: Easter is three weeks later than it was last year. Why does it move around so much?**

**A:** Unlike most 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, as it was in Jesus' day, which does not match up with the solar calendar that we use, so the date moves around on our calendar. Easter is nearly 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 ours 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, the equinox is set as March 21, 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!

The Rummage Sale is almost here: April 10, 11 & 12. You may start bringing items to the area outside the office on Mon. April 7 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.



# Thoughts and Prayers

**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)

CAPT Gail Hathaway (Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX - daughter of Marlin & Ruth Torgerson)

Colten Hughes (Fort Carson, CO - son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)

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

SGT Tyler Lauer (Hohenfels, Germany - son of Brian & Cyndi Lauer)

CAPT James Lapse (active duty - nephew of Lorraine Burch)

Lt Col Katie McCormick (granddaughter of Liz Krasen)

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

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

**Remember our Faith members in Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers**

**Lakeside (Dassel)**

Dorothy Getz

Joanne Olesen

**Glencoe**

Betty Garberich

Earl Peterson

**Harmony River**

Valerie Fimon

Helen Goertzen

Charles Kisling

Clarence Kulberg

Agnes Rettman

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

**Prairie Senior**

**Cottages**

Delores Saar

Peg Tapper

**Prairie View**

**(Hector)**

Jerome Lindquist

**Sleepy Eye**

Babette Marks

# BOOK SPOTLIGHT

*Written by Dorothy Desens*

Colleen Coble's *Rosemary Cottage* takes place on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. It has three main themes, which weave together at the conclusion.

One of the main characters, Amy, is not satisfied with a “death by drowning” of her brother, since he was an experienced surfer. She is a qualified midwife who decides to set up her practice on the Outer Banks while she investigates her brother's death. Amy moves into the family vacation home called Rosemary Cottage.

The other main character, Curtis, is on the Coast Guard rescue team. His sister died when she was struck by a jet ski while swimming. Curtis, a young, single Christian man, is left to care for his sister's little 2 year old daughter.

As Amy and Curtis join forces to investigate the deaths of their siblings, they encounter danger themselves. As their lives are threatened, they become more convinced that their siblings were murdered—but why would anyone want to harm their brother and sister? In the end they find that greed for power and money caused the death of their siblings.

*The Faith Book Club meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30pm in the Luther Lounge (near the 3rd floor elevator). Questions? 320-587-2093.*

