

# Faith Matters

August 2014

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## Pastor's Page

In 1973, Richard Wilson released *He Lived the Good Life*, a set of 12 songs covering the life of Jesus. As I remember, Wilson himself could not read or write music, so he sang or whistled the songs into a tape recorder and others transcribed them. The tunes are infectious, but the lyrics are even better, conveying the core truths of the Gospel in simple, unforgettable ways.

Wilson's song for Easter builds on this refrain:

*Did you hear the good news? Did you hear that he's not there no more?*

*Did you hear the good news? Did you hear that he rolled away the door?*

*Did you hear that he's living again, that he's back fishing for men?*

*If you haven't heard, then I'm spreading the word that he's living again.*

Did you hear the good news? That is the central question of the Christian faith, because the good news of Jesus is what the Holy Spirit uses to create faith in human hearts. In Romans 10:17, St. Paul writes, "So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." To hear that Christ has defeated sin, death and condemnation, opening the gates of eternal life, is the best news that anyone could ever hear! In fact, it is so unexpectedly good and gracious that hearing it once or even occasionally is not enough. In order to believe it, we have to hear it again and again and again.

Ironically, though, from the time of the New Testament on, even professing Christians have often acted as if hearing the good news is optional, or at least not a priority. Satan has tapped into our human creativity to create an endless list of reasons to skip worship or value other commitments more or put in the bare minimum of "pew time." They all seem to proceed from the notion that hearing God's Word is, at best, a duty like paying your taxes, or, at worst, a



# 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.



pointless exercise—anything but truly good news that is not to be missed.

Did you hear the good news? In this beautiful, but badly messed up world, we all need to hear good news, as much as possible. The *Small Catechism* explains the third commandment ("Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy") by urging us to "fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and **gladly hear and learn it.**" With news as good as the Gospel, hearing God's Word is a matter of joy, not duty, of privilege, not minimum compliance, of a not-to-be-missed opportunity, rather than grim endurance.

Did **you** hear the good news this week? Will you hear it next week? What about the people around you? Did they hear the good news? Because—if you haven't heard—Jesus is living again and he's back fishing for men (and women and children), and here at Faith Lutheran, we're doing whatever we can to spread the word. So don't miss your chance—not this week, not ever—to hear the good news of forgiveness, life and salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord and to share that joyful, freeing truth with others!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Grorud

# Giving = Mission

giving joyfully, growing ministry

At Faith this year, we have been emphasizing that *Giving=Mission*. The word “mission” brings to mind all the ways Faith does ministry here at home and around the world. Christians can all minister to those around them, but *offerings are mission in portable form*. They provide staff to lead ministries and a facility to house them, financial gifts to local agencies and far-flung missionaries, and care and guidance to those in need.

Giving, however, supports another kind of mission, the work God does in each of our hearts and lives. Giving is a spiritual discipline that helps reduce the power that money and possessions can so easily have in our lives. To give regularly, generously and before any other obligations reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God and it inspires gratitude for His divine generosity. So put generous, first-fruits offering alongside worship, prayer, Bible study and other spiritual practices in your life, because, not only in the world, but also in our own lives, *Giving=Mission*.

## To Our Pastors

Our God has sent you to this place  
To lead us in the way  
That He would have us work and think  
And live from day to day.

No matter the hour; whatever the need  
You go the extra mile -  
Always ready and willing to share  
A comforting thought and a smile.

We're grateful that you're here with us  
To teach us from His word,  
And we will try to do our best  
In service of our Lord.

We thank you for your ministry,  
Your guidance and your care.  
His greatest blessings for your life  
Is our most humble prayer.

~Anonymous

## FALL BIBLE STUDIES

*Crossways* classes will resume in September. *Crossways* is a “big picture” study of the whole Bible. It meets for 20 weeks/year for 3 years.

**Year 1**—A NEW class will begin on **Monday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

Year 2 will resume on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.  
Year 3 will resume on Sunday, September 7 at 6:00 p.m.

*Theology in Story*, a study of Old Testament narratives such as Samson, Ruth, Jonah and David, will take place on Mondays, from 10:30 to noon, starting on September 8.

Watch for Digging Deeper options to start up again, starting on Sunday, September 7. Topics will be announced next month.

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

**AUG. 5 - 9**

Portrait Sessions (see LifeTouch insert)

**TUES. AUG 12**

Stroke Screening (see Life Line insert)

7th Grade Welcome: WOW Zone

**AUG. 15 - 17**

Faith Life Camp

**AUG. 25 - 28**

MiniElderversity

**SUN. SEPT. 7**

Digging Deeper

Extravaganza

**MON. SEPT. 8**

*Theology in Story*

**MON. SEPT. 22**

New *Crossways* Class

**WED. SEPT. 24**

See You at the Pole

Follow this QR code with your mobile device for a simple way to give to Faith Lutheran. Or visit [www.faithlc.com/giving-made-easy/](http://www.faithlc.com/giving-made-easy/)



# Faith Lutheran's Outdoor Worship Services

Sundays, May 25 - August 31, 2014

10:10am

Library Square Park, Hutchinson

*Tell your friends, bring a lawn chair, and worship the Lord!*

*In case of rain: meet in Faith's sanctuary.*



## Getting to know the Staff - Gladys Bonnema

Gladys Bonnema, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, started interning here one year ago and has been a part of the full-time staff since December. What a joy it has been to have her at Faith!

Gladys has spent most of her life in Hutchinson and comes from a small family – just her and her mom. This relationship and her relationship with her dad have provided an enormous area of growth for her, especially as she has gotten to know the Lord. (She says she would love to talk with you if you'd like to know more!)

When I asked her about interests, this is how she responded: "In my spare time, I love being around people and getting to know them in a deeper way by asking questions, having deep talks, playing games, and going on adventures with them." (No wonder the youth love her!)

Attending college in California at Biola University, she majored in Psychology and minored in Biblical Studies. In the past, Gladys has worked as a camp counselor and as a receptionist at a psychiatrist's office. She keeps in close contact with her friends from college and says, "They are my strength and support when I feel alone or doubt myself."

In her job at Faith Lutheran, she wants "to provide an environment where youth and adult leaders feel

safe, challenged, loved and known by her and by God." She works with teams to plan confirmation and Wednesday youth night, confirmation, mission trips, coordinating softball leagues, working with other area youth directors and in youths' lives outside of church. She also helps to plan and facilitate the Compline service. Gladys says "doing things for people I would want to do even if I wasn't an employee" makes it fun!

"Leaning into the Lord" in her own spiritual walk helps her in the hardest part of her job which is balancing the deep parts (Real Talk) with not putting too much pressure on herself to be perfect. She loves seeing kids "fall in love with prayer and God's Word" and loves the deep questions they ask. Her favorite part of the job though is seeing "the moment when someone has been convicted of their sin and experiences the grace of God at their darkest moment. Praise be to God!"

One of her favorite Bible verses is Psalm 86:5. "You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you."

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## Donations for Newborn Kits

These kits will be sent to India, Africa, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea. They are sent through Global Health Ministries.

Items needed:

- \* 48 Regular size bath towels (may be gently used)
- \* 11 Newborn shirts
- \* 33 Wash Cloths
- \* 47 Bath sized white Ivory soap
- \* 50 2 or 2 1/2 gallon Ziploc plastic bags
- \* 4 Newborn Stocking caps

Place donated items in the office by Sept. 14  
Questions? Contact Dorothy Desens at 587-8777

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### Tutors needed for local schools

One out of three Minnesota third graders doesn't read at grade level, and about 40% of Minnesota eighth graders are not proficient in math. With your help, we can reverse that trend and make sure students are prepared for the future. Minnesota Reading Corps and Math Corps are looking for people to join their corps of tutors in schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul and across the state. Tutors give back to their communities for one year by introducing research-based strategies to students struggling to succeed.

Tutors are trained to help children gain the skills and confidence to become proficient in reading or math. As a tutor, you'll receive a biweekly living allowance, and commit to 11 months of service. In addition, you'll receive an education award of up to \$5,645 to spend on either your own education or, if you're over 55, the education of your child or grandchild.

Most tutors begin August 10. Apply today! Go to [www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org](http://www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org) or [www.MennesseeMathCorps.org](http://www.MennesseeMathCorps.org). Send questions to [recruitment@servemnation.org](mailto:recruitment@servemnation.org) or 866-859-2725.

## stump the pastor

*Q: If prayers for healing don't bring recovery, is it because we weren't strong enough in faith and didn't truly believe?*

*A: This anguished question needs to be simply acknowledged more than answered or analyzed. The struggle to understand and trust God in the midst of illness, suffering and death is one of the greatest challenges of the Christian life. The question does not seek an answer, as much as it expresses lament and grief.*

At the same time, it requires an answer, because too many well-meaning Christians suggest that unanswered prayers are due to our weak faith. But that simply is not true. When we are at our most vulnerable, Satan tempts us to put faith in our faith, rather than put faith in God. Satan points us away from how God revealed Himself in Christ crucified and turns us back in on ourselves. It seeks to lay blame and assign guilt, instead of trusting God in all circumstances. It is a recipe for despair, which is always Satan's ultimate goal.

In times of suffering, it is natural to look up to heaven or deep inside ourselves to try to explain God's divine will. But the only place to find comfort, meaning, hope and purpose is in this world, at the foot of Jesus' cross and the gaping door of the empty tomb. It is there, alone, that God chooses to make Himself known. There, the Holy Spirit assures us that God forgives us, saves us and grants us life—now and in heaven forever—come what may.

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### FLCW

Thank you to everyone who attended, worked, and had gardens/farms on the tour for the FLCW Garden Tour/Luncheon. We have received many comments on the delicious salads and wonderful tours. The light rain didn't seem to damper our spirits.

Thanks, also, to all who brought the mouth watering pies for Pie at Park Elementary School on June 16 due to the weather, and coffee hours on June 22. Our profit was \$225.00. Thirty percent goes toward our mortgage principal.

# 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)  
Colten Hughes (Fort Carson, CO - son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)  
Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC - son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)  
SGT Tyler Lauer (Australia - 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)  
Scott Schwarze (Fort Sill, OK - son of Matt Schwarze and Barb Schwarze)  
Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth, MN - son of Dave & Marian Skaar)

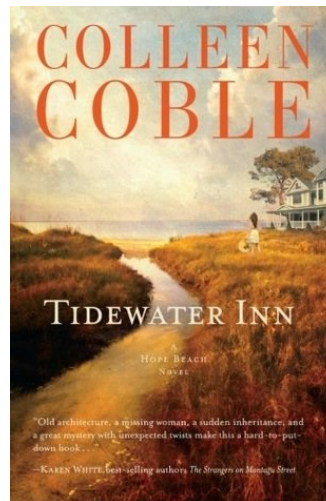
## BOOK SPOTLIGHT

*Written by Marsha Schmit*

*Tidewater Inn*, by Colleen Coble, is the first in the fictional Hope Beach series. The author offers a terrific description of the beauty of the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Hope Island where the beachfront historical hotel, Tidewater Inn, is located. The story provides plenty of suspense, a budding romance, an exploration of faith, and the characters are interesting and appealing.

The main character in the book, Libby, learns from her business partner and best friend that she is inheriting Tidewater Inn from the father she never knew. This friend is kidnapped, her newly found brother and sister resent her, and the Inn she is inheriting needs a lot of work with money she doesn't have. On top of it all, she is being investigated for her friend's disappearance! Libby finds herself relying heavily on her faith to get through the turmoil.

If you enjoy a good mystery mixed with a beautiful and historical setting, interesting characters and suspense, you will enjoy this read!



*Want to read along with the next book? The Faith Book Club meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Luther Lounge (near the 3rd floor elevator). Questions? 320-587-2093.*

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

### **Dassel Lakeside**

Dorothy Getz

### **Glencoe**

Betty Garberich

### **Harmony River**

Valerie Fimon

Charles Kisling

Clarence Kulberg

Joanne Olesen

Earl Peterson

Agnes Rettman

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

### **Prairie Senior Cottages**

Delores Saar

### **Prairie View (Hector)**

Jerome Lindquist

### **Sleepy Eye**

Babette Marks

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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