

Faith Matters

December 2011



Pastor's Page

PREPARE

There is no greater world event than Jesus' entry into our world. Once again, we prepare to celebrate this event, but how prepared are we to tell what this event means? During the month of October, four weeks of presentations ("Discipleship Delivered: Disguised and Daring") focused on addressing this question: How well are we equipped to witness to the Jesus we celebrate year after year at Christmas?

The Advent season is traditionally thought of as a time to prepare as we think of the Jesus who came to earth in a manger and the Jesus who will come again at the end of time. Between these events is our time to witness. It is the only time we get to make our witness. But what do we say? How do we say it? And when we face oppositional questions we can't answer, where do we go?

The October presentations were the beginning steps. One goal is to prepare the congregation to witness. St. Paul put it this way: "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ." (Eph. 4:12) This is what we, as the church, are called to do with and for each other.

There is a word you will be hearing more and more that serves as a brief way of describing this effort to equip us to witness with our lives. That word is: *FaithLife*. FaithLife... the intentional ways by which we will "equip the saints for the work of ministry." Faithlife... connecting with each other in ways that deepen relationships.

FaithLife will appear in many different ways. We are planning to stream family devotions live into your homes. We are looking into email and texting as a way of delivering devotional thoughts. There will be Bible Studies and educational forums. We are now planning for Lent, when we will teach each other how to pray by studying the riches of the Lord's Prayer. We will prepare vignettes/one-act plays that teach how to speak the faith and witness to friends, co-workers, family and skeptics. All of this will culminate in retreats at a camp setting where relationships can be deepened and the "equipping for the work of ministry" can be more direct.

We begin this "equipping work" with Advent. Prepare to be a part of this season!

Pastor Randy Freund

PREPARE - Advent Services - Wednesdays at FLC

Wednesday, November 30
6:30 pm

Prepare with our Hearts

The Holden Prayer Service will be the focus as we begin preparing our Hearts for the birth of our Lord.

Wednesday, December 7
6:30 pm

Prepare with our Senses

Come early on this evening to let your senses explore the sights and smells of a marketplace in Bethlehem many, many years ago.

Wednesday, December 14
6:30 pm

Prepare with our Neighbors

Learn some history of Christmas Caroling as we worship together followed by Christmas Caroling to FLC shut-ins and homebound members.

Wednesday, December 21
6:30 pm

Prepare with our Minds

A Live Nativity experience will allow your mind to imagine the fear, excitement and unknown as Mary and Joseph did thousands of years ago.

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Holden Prayer Service

Wed. Nov. 30, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Brunch

Sat. Dec. 3, 10 a.m.

Walk through Bethlehem Marketplace

Wed. Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

FLC Christmas Concert & "Lutran" Dinner

Sun. Dec. 11, 4 p.m.

5th & 6th Grade Caroling

Wed. Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Program at Park Elementary

Sun. Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

Live Nativity

Wed. Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

Sat. Dec. 24: 2, 4 & 6 p.m.

Worship with Holy Communion at 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

Sun. Dec. 25, 10 a.m. with Holy Communion (1 Service)

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2093
www.FaithLC.com



Ministry & Mission **in action**

Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Whether you brought items to pack in the boxes, brought completed boxes or brought money to cover shipping costs, your generosity will go a long way. Please add your prayers for God to highlight the saving name of Jesus in the lives of children who receive those boxes.

Thanks again,
Kacie Lange and Pastor Paulus

Women of the Word - Augustana District

The mission projects for the WOW annual gathering in early October were hospice kits and newborn kits for Global Health Ministries. Global Health Ministries sent WOW a thank-you letter for supporting them with 39 hospice kits and 123 newborn kits. In the letter, the organization thanked WOW for the helpful supplies and said the kits will help as they seek to better advance their mission of bringing hope and healing to the poor.

The Giving Tree is Growing

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

In our local community and congregation, we have economic crises happening to our fellow members. We at Faith Lutheran would like to assist in helping those in need. We are announcing an “adopt a bill” addition to the giving tree for our members that are in financial crisis. The congregational members will have to have exhausted all financial and social services available. The member then would request assistance through Faith’s lay minister. Bills needing assistance will be summarized/split and added to the tree. Members who are willing to assist would pull the bill off the tree and make checks payable to Faith Lutheran.



Council Highlights

Topics discussed at the Nov. 15 Church Council Meeting

The Worship Team made plans for this year’s Advent services. See page 1 and page 6 for more details.

In October, director of Children and Family ministry Kacie Lange attended a children’s ministry conference. She told the council of her efforts for Faith’s future and how to educate parents and focus on Christian family life beyond the church.

Marsha Schmit announced she was named as an assistant to the President of the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Her 10 hours of allocated time to them each week will remain the same.

The plans for the 3-PEAT push to end the year without borrowing to settle our budget was discussed. See the 3-PEAT insert for more information.

The Finance Team is considering a 3.53% increase in the 2012 budget. The Annual Report will be published in January, and the council decided to hold the annual congregational meeting on **Jan. 29, 2012 at 12:15 p.m.**

Ministry Teams

Each month through this year, this column will highlight one of the new ministry teams that support and lead broad areas of Faith’s ministry in order to help the congregation understand what they are and what each one does.

The center of every church’s life is its worship services. In fact, the Augsburg Confession defines the church in terms of what happens in worship: the “one holy Christian church...is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.”

The **Worship** ministry team helps to plan, staff and coordinate Faith’s worship services. It pays particular attention to special days and seasons, and to the music ministry of the church. The upcoming services and themes for Advent were developed by the Worship team, as was the Reformation Wax Museum presented on Reformation Sunday.

The **Worship** ministry team includes church council members Dave Franzen and Shari Dorival, along with Stephanie Freund, Lynn Winslow, Jill Bierbaum and Denise Kruse. Sue Graff from the church staff also relates to this team.

Church in the World

Congregational Life

Discipleship

Management

Spiritual Formation

Worship



Bulletin Board

Faith Lutheran Church Women

The Christmas Tea/Decorating Committee and FLCW are combining forces to put on a Christmas Brunch entitled “The Spirit of Christmas” on Sat. Dec. 3 at 10 a.m. The menu includes an egg bake, muffins, fruit kabobs, cookies and beverages. Background music will be provided by Lara Liepold. A sale including toys, cookbooks and baked goodies is part of the event. Please bring baked goods to the church on Fri. Dec. 2 if you are willing and able. This will be a festive and relaxing time with friends and relatives. All are welcome to attend. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets are limited.

Our general FLCW meeting, “Christmas Memories,” is on Tues. Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. We would like each of you to write down a Christmas memory. We will read them at the meeting. A light supper will be served, and we will vote on dispensing funds, so it is important for you to be there. Call the church office (587-2093) or Bobbi Knudson (587-2227) if you would like a ride. We know many of you do not like to drive after dark.

Just a note on our ice machine. The FLCW purchased an ice machine for the kitchen using \$1,500 from their general fund, and \$1,200 from memorials that were donated to the FLCW. The ice machine was used for the meatball supper and it worked great. If you have meetings, please use the ice for water. Thank you to everyone who donated memorials to the FLCW and to everyone who made this purchase possible.

Women’s Bible Study

On Dec. 2, the Friday 9 a.m. Women’s Bible Study Group will begin a new study: *Old Places, New Faces*, focusing on the Book of Acts. The author, Rev. Kent Groethe, leads and inspires people of faith today as we learn from the people in the Book of Acts. We invite you to join us. If you have questions, contact Gladys Pilgrim at 234-9753.

December 4th

Informational meetings about the “Legacy of Faith... Moving Forward” Capital Campaign will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the three morning worship services on Dec. 4. Please attend one of these meetings so you are informed about our upcoming capital campaign efforts.



PREPARE

Adult Forums in Advent
(Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Faith Center):

December 4
“The Announcement that Challenged the World”
The Power of Mary’s Magnificent

December 11
“The Decree that Gathered the World”
The Census to Call Us to Our Senses

December 18
“The Birth that Changed the World”
The Unlikely Holy Family

Kidpower

KidPower is a supervised, faith-based Christian program for children in grades K - 5 whose parents work when schools are not in session. KidPower is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-school days, and costs \$10 per child for 5-10 hours, or \$5 per child for up to 5 hours. For families with several children, the maximum payment is \$25 per family per day.

Upcoming KidPower dates for 2011-2012 school year:

- December 2
- December 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30
- January 16
- February 20
- March 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16
- April 6

Applications are available in the Faith Lutheran Church office. Call the office with questions: 587-2093. Only one application is needed per family per year. *However, you will need to contact the church office to register for the individual days your child attends.*



Seniors Scene

And now...it's the month of Christmas. December...cold December! Snowy December! By the time you read this it may already be snowy and cold. We need some warmth!

Come to the Seniors Potluck meeting on Thursday, December 8th. No, that's not the wrong date. We meet early in the month, so that when activity in family, church and community ratchet up, we won't compete. We can relax and enjoy some food and singing while we listen to music in the Christmas mode. Sue Graff is helping us plan a special time of celebrating our Savior's birth into this world. Our thanks to her.

Don't forget—potluck dinner at noon, on Thursday, December 8th. Come, and bring a friend with you. Who knows, they might keep coming.



New & Noteworthy

DIG

After an amazing mission trip experience this summer, many youth expressed a desire to “dig deeper” into God's word. DIG is an attempt to do just that. This is a no-frills, in-depth, short-term commitment Bible Study for high school youth. DIG meets every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Youth are encouraged to commit to attending the study on a month-by-month basis.

We'll spend the month closely examining a book of the Bible (like Philippians in November) or a theme through scripture (like the Christ birth narratives in December). We even try to memorize portions of the texts! Pray for our teens as they DIG!



Thoughts and Prayers

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

Amanda Dietz (Iraq ~ friend of Katie Penkert)
Andrew Hantge (Navy, Everett, WA ~ son of Marsha Schmit and Robert Hantge)
Master Sergeant Todd Butler (Air Force ~ Afghanistan ~ Brother of Matt Butler)
Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC ~ son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)
Lt Katie McCormick (granddaughter of Liz & Don Krasen)
CAPT Gail Hathaway (Pearl Harbor ~ daughter of Marlin & Ruth Torgerson)
CAPT James Lepse (active duty ~ nephew of Lorraine Burch)
Jerod Paulson (Navy ~ nephew of Jeanette Fauskee)
Willy Eckstrom (Afghanistan ~ son of Dean & Karen Eckstrom)
SFC Guy Sing (Iraq ~ nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
Colten Hughes (Iraq & Kuwait ~ son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)
Jason Slinder (Kuwait ~ nephew of Betty Braun)

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

Hector

Jerome Lindquist

Dassel Lakeside

Eloi Hamre

Emmanuel Litchfield

Pete Hoefs

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Peg Tapper

Burns Manor

Valerie Fimon

Hazel Neuman

Agnes Rettman

Helen Goertzen

Dorothy Klitzke

Patricia Paulson

Muriel Zajicek

Alice Hansen

A Prayer for the Capital Campaign at Faith Lutheran

Submitted by the Capital Campaign Prayer Committee

Dear God our Heavenly Father,

We thank and praise you for being our loving father. You know our needs and know our problems, and we thank and praise you for having a plan for us to follow. We marvel at how our gifts and talents have been manifested here at Faith Lutheran, and ask that you guide our steps in the future, as you have done in the past. Your great love for us shines through each and every person. We are all part of your body, and ask that you use each of us to your good.

In Jesus name and for his sake,
Amen



1st
Campaign

WOW

2005 - 2006 - 2007/2008

Objectives: (1) Faith on Main upgrades; (2) Land Acquisition for an optional 2nd site; (3) Building design; (4) Debt Management - goal of paying off accumulated debt (as of Nov. 2005) by the end of 2008; and (5) 10% to Missions.

Accomplishments:

- \$1,347,800 raised
- 10% given to missions
- Paid off accumulated debt (as of end of 2005) totaling \$352,225
- Faith on Main/Faith on Grove building updates
- Decision to stay downtown & forego 2nd site
- Architect secured and initial floor plans drawn to expand existing structure
- \$550,000 used with funds from 2nd campaign (Legacy) to complete Phase I

2nd
Campaign

Legacy of Faith

2008 - 2009 - 2010/2011

Objectives: Raise funds to complete Phase I of our building project . . . education space, Greenhouse (previously Faith on Grove) ministries, and administration areas.

Accomplishments:

- \$1.7 million committed in cash & pledges; \$1,658,000 received as of Nov. 15, 2011
- Phase I complete - beautiful, functional expansion
- Mortgage with Thrivent Financial - principal balance of \$3,142,000 (as of Nov. 15, 2011); 5.375% interest; 25 year mortgage; monthly payments of \$19,413

3rd
Campaign

Legacy of Faith . . . Moving Forward

2012 - 2013 - 2014

Objectives: Raise funds to fulfill our monthly mortgage payments for the next three years and secure large gifts & future estate gifts to pay off our principal balance.

“Legacy of Faith . . . Moving Forward” campaign will kick off in January 2012.

Other Notes:

- Phase II of our building project will not begin until the current mortgage is paid down significantly.
- Monthly mortgage payments are NOT paid from the FLC General Fund (operating fund).
- Successive capital campaigns will need to be conducted until the current mortgage is completely paid off.
- The mortgage interest rate can be adjusted as large principal reductions are made.
- The mortgage interest rate can be reduced by 1/2% if we have total commitments to the “Legacy of Faith . . . Moving Forward” campaign of at least \$1.4 million. All funds raised above that threshold will reduce Faith’s long-term indebtedness.



Advent at Faith

Christmas Brunch

Bake Sale and Toy Sale

Music by Lara Liepold

Presented by the Faith Lutheran Church Women & the
Decorating Committee

Saturday, December 3, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Tickets available in the church office
Adults \$8
Children 12 and under \$5



December 24th (Saturday) -

Christmas Eve Worship

2:00 p.m. Family Service

4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m. Holy Communion

December 25th (Sunday) - Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy
Communion

December 18th

Sunday School Christmas
Program

"The Not So Silent Night"

2:00 p.m.

Park Elementary

December 11th

Faith Christmas Concert &

"Lutran" Dinner

4:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

November 30

FL Youth will make (and eat)
Christmas Cookies at 5:30 p.m. The
cookies will be for sale on
Sun. Dec. 4 after the worship
services.

PREPARE

Weekly Advent Services

PREPARE
Advent Services

Wednesdays
6:30 p.m.
Faith Lutheran Church

Come one . . . Come ALL

Wednesday, November 30

6:30 p.m.

PREPARE with our Hearts

Holden Prayer Service



Wednesday, December 7

6:30 p.m.

PREPARE with our Senses

Bethlehem Marketplace



Wednesday, December 14

6:30 p.m.

PREPARE with our Neighbors

Christmas Caroling



Wednesday, December 21

6:30 p.m.

PREPARE with our Minds

Live Nativity.





Directory

Faith Lutheran Church

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stump the pastor

Q: God gave us the commandment “Do not kill,” but He gives people cancer. How is this different?

A: Last month, I considered one side of this question, the problem of human suffering and whether God causes it. There is another question here, too, which concerns the relationship between God’s actions and ours.

This question assumes, as many people do, that God’s actions and authority are equivalent to ours. But God is the Creator of all life. Life and death rest in His hands. If God chose to end this grand experiment called creation tomorrow, He is free and able to do so. That is one of the key messages of the Great Flood in Genesis. Of course, the fact that God saved Noah and his family proclaims that God wants most to preserve life, not destroy it.

God’s situation as Creator is quite different from ours as creatures. By definition, we must live according to God’s will and when we do not, it is sin against Him. If life is going to end, that is God’s decision, not ours. The one exception to that rule falls under Jesus’ command to love our neighbors as ourselves. When killing is required in order to protect the lives of our neighbors—whether it is governments exercising capital punishment or countries going to war against aggressors—the need to protect the defenseless makes killing the lesser evil. The conditions that might warrant such extreme action, though, are the source of endless debate.

Finally, there are times when people bear at least some responsibility for illness and even death by how they care for their health. If I take foolish risks, indulge bad habits or generally fail to take care of the body God gave me, I do not have much room to blame God when my health goes bad. While life and death rest in God’s hands, we are called to be good managers of the life He has given us.