



# Faith Matters

## June 2015

There are times where I feel like poor Oliver, once again begging for more money for the church. There may be times when you feel like Pastor Scott and I are like Oliver, always begging for more. We don't like to do it, because we know that many of you don't like us to do it.

"They're always talking about money!"

That is not the impression we want to give, nor do we really think that is the case. If anything, we want the impression to be, "They're always talking about Jesus!"

That said, we need to talk about money. We need to talk about giving, because the church needs it and you need it, too. Let me explain:

The church needs you to give more because ministry costs money, and offerings are our only source of income. We are currently behind last year's pace for offerings received, with the summer months just beginning. (Please see the financial update on page 6) Thriving ministries like FLY Night, 56er's, Seniors' ministry, Family Fun Days, FaithLife Camp and Club 218 take resources to run. In addition, Faith needs money to continue to explore creative ways to reach and support college students, to reach out in our community, to maximize technology in an effort to communicate the gospel in new ways, and to retain excellent staff members. Just recently, we have been presented with the possibility of bringing a pastoral intern on board, something that would greatly bless that future pastor and benefit our mission here. The only real obstacle to proceeding with such an opportunity is money. Should that hold us back from doing the ministry God presents us? Pray about giving more - always in proportion to your income, keeping in mind 2 Corinthians 8:12: "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has - not according to what one does not have."

Not only does the church need you to give, but you also have a need to give. It is an act of worship! You see, in a way we are all like poor Oliver. We are all beggars. We have nothing. We are completely at the mercy of our generous Lord. And here's the good news: He gives! He gave us this wonderful world to live in. He gives us our daily bread and the family we eat it with. Most importantly, he gave us his Son, who died for our sins, so that now he can forgive us in his Son's name. He pours abundantly into our needy lives, and then asks that we, too, give in response to his endless generosity.

So give! Give for the sake of your church and our mission. Even more, give because to you much has been given. Learn the joy of giving!

*"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." -2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

See you in church!  
Pastor Dave



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

### JUNE 15-19

Vacation Bible School (see Faith Kids News insert)

### JUNE 16

Ministry Teams & Council Meeting  
July Faith Matters Articles due to office

### JUNE 17

Drive-In Diner

### JUNE 20

Mugs and Muffins

### JUNE 27

Garden Tour & Salad Luncheon

### JUNE 28

Bike to Church Sunday

### JULY 20-24

Vacation Bible School (see Faith Kids News insert)

### AUG. 14 - 16

Faith Life Camp

Faith Lutheran's

# Outdoor Worship Services

Sundays, May 24 - September 6, 2015 @ 10:10 a.m.

in Library Square Park, Hutchinson

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

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

First Word @ 8 a.m. will continue in the Sanctuary

There will be no Sunday School or Digging Deeper for the summer.



## **Paul Scheidler**

Paul is a 2013 graduate of Anderson University in Indiana, and entering his 2nd year of medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine in the fall, planning to practice primary medicine. Paul enjoys participating in and watching sports, exercising, and is very much looking forward to growing together

with the Faith Lutheran community this summer! Paul will be with us from May 26 - August 1 providing some interim help with our children's ministry while we look for a new Director of Children & Family Ministry. He is a friend of Mike Lauer's, he has worked with Youth Works in the past, the organization through which FLY youth take their mission trips each summer. We look forward to having Paul with us for the summer. Feel free to stop in and say Hi!

## **Drive in Diner**

The Faith Lutheran Church Youth would like to announce that their Annual Drive-In Diner is coming up soon! On Wednesday, June 17th the FLYouth will be serving grilled hamburgers, hotdogs and brats along with chips, cookies and pop in the church parking lot. You can drive up and be waited on in your car or there will be picnic tables available if you want to dine outside. The youth will roll around and wait on you on their roller skates or blades. All proceeds will go to support the mission trip to Queens, New York in July. Plan now to come on out and have a fun meal as you walk down memory lane to the Drive-In Diner Days!



## **Faith Family Fun - "Bike to Church Sunday"**

**Our next Faith Family Fun Event is set for Sunday, June 28.**

Join your family in getting a little fresh air and exercise. Let's all bike to church in the park and see how many bikes we can have there all at one time. Big bikes, little bikes, trailers on bikes, all sizes, shapes and colors. We want to see YOUR RIDE!

Yes, it is harder to haul a chair but throw a blanket in a backpack and you are good to go!



## Faith Lutheran Youth



FLY night has been experiencing some new leadership this month! We have been led by our Faith Fams which are groups based on grade, and each Faith Fam has had the opportunity to lead youth night from games, to small groups or stations and they made all the decisions with a little bit of help from our leadership. In April, our sophomores led us through a "superhero day" which was an evening of silence where we walked through different stations and closed with some words from Evan Pokornowski about his superhero's...



"At FLY Night on April 29<sup>th</sup> our focus was the superheroes in our life, also we wanted to express the message that we, as people, are the hands and feet of God. We have an opportunity to spread

God's love to people in our community, but we can also spread it other places. How does Queens, NY sound? Okay now I'm going to get into the story of my hero. My mom is my hero. She has always been there for me in any situation that I have gone through. On top of her endless support she has an unbelievable faith in God. She knew how important it was for me to know God at a young age so she brought me to church and Sunday School regularly. She was my teacher in Sunday School all of my years. My mom always made sure to pray with me every night before I went to bed. Not only does she uplift my faith, she also makes sure to take time to stay connected herself. She is a part of our church council and she attends a Bible study regularly. She reads a devotion over the phone with one of her good friends every morning. These are just a small portion of the reason my mom is my hero, because she takes time to make sure that my faith is as strong as it can be. Now let's move into the superhero in all of our lives.

God is our one true hero that will never stray from our side. He is there for us all the time. Our world is full of marks that cover the glory of the world our God created. But Jesus came to die for us and as He did this He washed away all our marks and made us pure again. At the same time, if we repent of our sins, God will forgive them, so in a way our marks bring us closer to Him. Amen!"

## music notes



This is a busy time of year for all of our ministries. Some are wrapping up, some are just beginning, but either way we can see God working. The Ringers of Faith and Faith Singers have begun their summer hiatus, but our youth have begun practicing. They will be leading worship at the Baccalaureate service at the High School, preparing for leading worship in the park, as well as leading worship on the mission trip. I am excited to announce that this summer I will be working on recording some of the original worship songs I've written, as well as the arrangements of the hymns played at Compline. Finally, the trailer is packed and ready for outdoor worship! Bring your lawn chair and come down to Library Square at 10:10 to worship with Faith Lutheran.

Best,  
Mike Lauer  
Director of Music and Worship



## June Community Meal

**Weather permitting, we will be dining Al Fresco at Veteran's Memorial Park for our June 7th meal from 4-6 p.m. Come have a bite to eat, visit with a new friend or lend a hand.**





# stump the pastor

*Q: Is the Lord Dead?*

A: This question formed the headline of an article that Wendy Mayland spotted. The author, Pastor Steven Gjerde, poses it to his confirmation students at the start of each year. The initial results, he reports, are usually not encouraging.

“It’s not that they deny the resurrection, these little believers of ours. They just don’t get what the resurrection is, or maybe they don’t get what death is. As one student explained to me: ‘Well, on Easter, Jesus went to heaven, right? And now when we die, we go to heaven. So isn’t going to heaven being dead?’ In such a view, resurrection has no earthly or bodily reality—it all happened and now happens somewhere else—and death is no longer the enemy to be destroyed, but just the name for life after...well, life after life, I guess. As a result, Jesus being dead is no problem. It just means he’s in heaven, with all the other dead people.

“But (this is) a crucial matter for any church confessing the lordship of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of the crucified One reveals His lordly power: the power to greet a dead sinner, give him life, and bring him into God’s future. The fact that Jesus revealed this power within an earthly span of time (on the third day) and in a particular place (Jerusalem) declares His willingness to exercise this power already now, on earth, through the continued ministry of His church, until He comes to transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious one. Without those details of the resurrection, the lordship of Jesus Christ easily floats into some other realm (heaven) and Jesus remains, for all practical purposes, dead.”

Is the Lord dead? No! But he *was* really and truly dead on Good Friday. Only the divine power of the Father was able to raise him again. The difference between the dead Jesus and the risen Lord Jesus is like night and day, just as the difference between the reality of death and the promise of eternal life when Christ resurrects our bodies on the Last Day is like night and day.

The desire to deny or downplay death, to de-fang it and disguise its awful power runs strong in people, Christians and non-Christians alike. But it does not work—and we all know it. The tears and anguish that always accompany death prove it.

The only solution to death is if the Author of life overturns it—and the heart of the Gospel is that God in Christ has done exactly that. “If for this life we have only hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died...for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.” (I Corinthians 15:18-21) The Lord *was* dead, but not anymore. Jesus lives, and by his grace, all who die in him will also be raised from the dead—body and soul, just as he was—to live with him forever.

# FaithLife Camp

Aug. 14-16, 2015 Mount Carmel Ministries

Registration is open now for the 2015 FaithLife Camp.

**Full Brochure:** [www.faithlc.com/ministries/faithlife-camps](http://www.faithlc.com/ministries/faithlife-camps)

Brochures are also available at Faith Lutheran Church.

Questions? Call 320-587-2093.

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY WHILE THERE IS STILL ROOM!!**



Faith Lutheran Church is currently hosting another House of Studies event from the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Rev. Tim Rynearson is teaching "Ephesians for Preaching and Teaching." The letter to the Ephesians is a powerful and rich book of the New Testament. Readings from Ephesians are assigned in the lectionary for seven Sundays this summer. The course is from Sunday, May 31, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and on Monday, June 1, through Thursday, June 4, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Members of Faith and others from the community are welcome to sit in on some or all of the sessions at no charge. Note: Although welcome to any of the sessions, lay people are encouraged to attend the evening sessions. Call or e-mail the church for more information.

Sunday 5:30-8:30 Introduction and Background information

Monday 9-noon, 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ephesians chapters 1-3

Tuesday 9-noon, 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ephesians chapter 4

Wednesday 9-noon, 2-4 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ephesians 5:1-6:9

Thursday 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Ephesians 6:10-24 Summary



## Faith Lutheran Church Women

*IT IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK!*

The Garden Tour and Salad Luncheon of course!

We have six beautiful gardens to explore and many yummy salads & bars to consume.

So be on the look out for the tickets going on sale soon.

There will be a sign up sheet to help with the luncheon too!

Work with your best friend or meet a new friend. Working together is a great way to meet the wonderful women of the church. Help is needed to setup as well as making salads and bars on Friday the 26th.

Workers are needed on Saturday the 27th to help serve and clean up.

Remember look for sign up sheets now! You can pick your favorite project to work on and have fun.

### Garden Tour and Salad Luncheon

When: Saturday, June 27, 2015

Where: Luncheon @ Faith Lutheran Church: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Self Guided Garden Tour: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Maps for the tour attached to your ticket

\$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for ages 12 & under

***Don't miss the beautiful gifts God has grown for us.***

## Why Give? A Reflection on Biblical Stewardship

It is no secret that most churches—Faith Lutheran among them—get a big financial boost from Easter and Christmas offerings. In recent years, Faith has asked for special *Alleluia!* offerings around Easter, because already by then the church has usually opened up a significant deficit. This year, because the deficit was not as dire, we did not ask for an *Alleluia!* offering. Sure enough, our Easter offerings were some \$6,600 lower than last year, even though our worship attendance was a bit higher, and offerings for the month fell \$15,000 from last year.

That surprising difference, I think, points to one of the essential tenets of Biblical stewardship. The goal of Christian giving is for us to give according to how God has blessed us, not on the current state of the church budget or a special appeal. It has often been stated this way: *as Christians, we not only give to needs, but we have a need to give.*

Faith Lutheran is still not in a financial crisis—thank God! But so far this year, ***offerings are the lowest they have been since 2010!*** As we move into summer, that “missing” \$15,000 and overall decline in giving may well loom large. Whether it does or not, though, misses the deeper point, which is the call to regular, generous, faithful giving in proportion to how God first blesses me and you. (One way to do that is to use *Simply Giving*, which allows you to give your offerings by electronic fund transfer. Call the church to find out more.)

So what do you think? Could Faith Lutheran reach the point where offerings were sufficient and growing each year—without having to make special appeals at Easter or Christmas? If we understand our need to give, I have no doubt of it, for God provides for us with divine regularity and generosity. Giving to God that reflects God’s giving to us would surely be more than enough!

## Monthly Financial Update

	Actual YTD 5/22/2015	Budget 2015	Budget Remaining
General Fund Income	267,087.63	762,219.00	495,131.37
General Fund Expenses	297,775.72	762,219.00	464,443.28
General Fund Net Income/Loss	(30,688.09)		

Average weekly giving needed to reach budget	\$14,658.06
Average monthly giving needed to reach budget	\$63,518.25

# 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)

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) Dave & Marian Skaar)



## Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

### Pastors

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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

### 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