

Faith Matters

November 2011



Pastor's Page

Our Calling: A Faithful Presence. What Does that Mean?

To be caught up in the very character of our God is for us to reflect God's ways among us. Our calling as Faith Lutheran is not novel, something we envision out of our collective wisdom. No, we are simply to bear the image of our Creator and Redeemer.

Pastor Randy this past month has spoken of a book he read on sabbatical, *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*, by James Davison Hunter. In this remarkable book, Hunter speaks of how we often look in the wrong places for our sense of calling. We look to the world which is too enamored by power and dominance. If only we had the levers of power working for us, this world would be changed for the good ever so quickly. In the past and today, story upon story can be told of the folly of such thinking. We need rather to flee to our God and cry out for our God to refashion us personally and as his people to be a simple reflection of the character of our God. With Hunter and our pastors, I would invite you to consider again what that would mean for our calling.

We can depend upon our God faithfully to be present to us. His presence expresses itself in these ways: Our God pursues us, identifies with us, offers life to us, and makes all of this possible through sacrificial love. Consider with me how this shapes our calling.

Our God is a pursuing God. He is one who seeks out the lost, and goes out to find, rescue and carefully bring back those who have wandered away. This passion of our God needs once again to capture our imagination and drive us to go wherever he leads us to pursue the lost. Today this is considered by too many as old fashioned. We would rather leave one another to find our own paths in life with all too little awareness of how foolish and dangerous such misplaced trust is to all of us.

Our God identifies with us, came in the flesh to walk with us, and yes, when necessary, to carry us. God's Son in the flesh relished being with ornery sinners like you and like me. This is our calling also. We do not simply stay put in our little enclaves and invite others to join us. We mix it up with people overwhelmed with the messes of life.

Our God offers us life. "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly," our Lord said. The prophet Isaiah said: "Why do you spend your life for that which does not satisfy?" Our Lord gives us life that satisfies, rest to our restless souls, and we are called to pass this priceless gift on to others.

Our God makes all of this possible through sacrificial love. Our Savior's death on the cross was unique. In that sacrifice he took upon himself our sin. Still that sacrificial love, a love that pours life itself out for others, is intended to draw us into that manner of loving. Not power and dominance, but only such love found supremely in Jesus Christ and reflected through us is the shape of our calling.

These are challenging times to be God's faithful people. It is for me a joy to be a part of a congregation coming daily into the faithful presence of our God. Forgiven for our own unfaithfulness, we are made new and go out to be a reflection of our risen Savior who pursues us, identifies with us, offers us life, through his sacrificial love.

Pastor Paul Knudson

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

First Zumba Class at FLC (see p. 6)

Thurs. Nov. 3, 7 p.m.

All Saints Day

Sun. Nov. 6, All Services

Seniors Potluck

Thurs. Nov. 10, noon

Deadline for Operation Christmas Child

Sun. Nov. 13

Coming Together in Song V

Sun. Nov. 20, 3 p.m.

Twentysomething (see p. 6)

Mon. Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed. Nov. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Service

Thurs. Nov. 24, 10 a.m.

FLC Christmas Concert & "Lutran" Dinner

Sun. Dec. 11

Christmas Program at Park Elementary

Sun. Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

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



Ministry & Mission in action

Operation Christmas Child

We hope that by now you are well into your plans to fill the “shoebox,” for Operation Christmas Child for children throughout the world. This “Samaritan’s Purse” program distributes boxes of toys, hygiene needs, etc. to children all around the world, in the name of Jesus, who would never receive anything resembling a Christmas gift without it. You can pick up a folder in the narthexes or church office with all the instructions you need. Please note that the DEADLINE is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th. They will be delivered to the warehouse the very next day.

Coming Together in Song V

A time to enjoy spirit-filled music provided by the choirs of Common Cup Ministry churches.

Sun. Nov. 20, 2011

3:00 p.m.

Hutchinson High School Auditorium

A freewill offering will be taken at the concert.

Proceeds will go toward the programs of Common Cup Ministry.

For more information about the concert, please call Geri Johnson at 587-6733.

That All God's Children May Be Fed

A Rising Crisis of Hunger Calls God's People to Give Sacrificially

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom...for I was hungry and you gave me food...” (Matthew 25:34a)

God's Children far and near are malnourished, hungry and starving to death. We who have been so blessed by our Lord Jesus are his instruments of compassion and sacrificial love.

Join with FLC Members in DOUBLING our 2011 Response to \$10,000. Consider a sacrificial gift. Return that gift anytime during the month of November. Use the Mission Sunday envelope, the Thanksgiving envelope or give multiple times clearly designating your gift for hunger relief.

International Crisis: A refugee camp in Kenya built for 90,000 has 1,200 people coming to it daily and by year's end will have 500,000 there. Our dollars will help feed starving women and children. While governments around the world are reducing food aid to trim deficits, God's people need to rise up in an outpouring of generosity. Lutheran World Relief is our trustworthy partner in this endeavor.

Local Hunger: Both Common Cup Ministries and the McLeod County Food Shelf are facing dramatic increases in people needing assistance and inadequate resources to meet these needs. Kids Against Hunger also continues to provide healthy meals near and far.

You can be assured that all the partners noted above will be the very best stewards of your sacrificial gifts going to meet the needs of people in severe crisis. *Come to the Adult Forum on Sun., Nov. 6, to hear their stories.*

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Starting in November the Congregational Life Ministry Team will be sponsoring a “Thanksgiving Food Drive.” Our goal is to share Thanksgiving dinner with those in need. The donated food items will be delivered to the Food Shelf on November 21st. The following nonperishable items are needed:

Stuffing

Gravy mixes

Canned Green beans

French fried onions

Cream of mushroom soup

Canned Corn

Cranberries

Aluminum turkey pans

Money donations to purchase turkeys, potatoes, butter and pumpkin pies

In addition to these items, any other nonperishable food and personal items are encouraged as well. Watch for special places throughout the church for you to place your donations. Please share what you can to help make this Thanksgiving a blessing to others.



Council Highlights

Topics discussed at the Oct. 18 Church Council Meeting

- A long-range planning team will be formed. Ministry teams were asked to develop long-range plans to forward to this team.
- The nomination process for new ministry team members is in process. We are looking for people to serve on these teams. Also discussed was how to communicate the structure and purpose of ministry teams to potential new members.
- Faith Lutheran is in the beginning stages of forming the 2012 budget.
- The council will begin reading *Crossing the Bar: Home by Another Way* by James G. Johnson and will hold a discussion on the church's blog. The author is a bartender who is a pastor and shares his journey filled with stories and insights born of the joining together of these two worlds. As one reviewer stated: "It is a book about God's love, our freedom within that love and hope yet to be established in the lives of people... who are precious to God, and for whom God never ceases to seek." We encourage congregation members to follow along as the council discusses this book. Visit www.FaithLC.com for more details.

Ministry Teams

Each month through this year, this column highlights one of the ministry teams that support and lead broad areas of Faith's ministry.

President Ronald Reagan famously warned that "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same..."

The same warning can be—and often has been—given about the Christian faith. Although we trust that the Holy Spirit will create faith in each new generation, we also know that God works mostly through ordinary people in ordinary ways. So, Christians in each generation are called to dedicate themselves to instilling the faith in their children and grandchildren, so that the light of faith will continue to shine down through the ages until Christ returns in glory.

The *Spiritual Formation* ministry team serves to help parents and others in that important task of passing on the faith. It oversees all of Faith Lutheran's ministries to children, youth and their families. As one example of its work, the Spiritual Formation team started a new nursery program this fall, to start teaching children still too young for Sunday School about Jesus and the story of the Bible.

The *Spiritual Formation* team includes church council members Erika Smith and Julie Ashbaugh, along with Rachel Kamrath, Dan Olberg, Ashley Christie and Christine Peterson. Kacie Lange and Dave Wollan from the church staff also relate to this team.

Church in the World

Congregational Life

Discipleship

Management

Spiritual Formation

Worship



Bulletin Board

Common Cup Ministry, Inc.

Faith Lutheran will be collecting disposable diapers the entire month of November. This is a valuable outreach through Common Cup. Please place the diapers in the box outside the reception office.

Women of the Word

A big thanks to the ladies who helped with the hospice and newborn kits for Global Health Ministries. 39 hospice kids and 123 newborn kits were collected at the Augustana District Women of the Word (WOW) gathering on Oct. 1. They will be sent to Uganda, Africa.

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. See the church office for information and forms.

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.*

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

Adult Forums: Food for Body and Soul

Gemechis Buba, a preacher from a distant land, taught by the master chef, Our Lord Jesus, delivers "soul food" as few can. See portions of one powerful, Spirit led message delivered at the recent national gathering of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

November 6: "When Did We See You Hungry?"

The Need is Real, Overwhelming. God's children are hungry here in our own community and in distant lands. See, hear, come together to be inspired to give sacrificially that others might live. *Soul Food from a Man of God: Taste and See that It is Good!*

November 13: A Delicious Appetizer that Is Good For You

November 20: The Main Course Prepared Just Right

November 27: A Feast that Prepares You for the Journey

You may think soul food is only for a few who have a taste for it. You may come to the table and refuse to eat. That is possible. You are invited, however, to COME, TASTE and SEE THAT IT IS GOOD.

Faith Lutheran Church Women

Thank you to Lori Gelschus, Darlene Larson, Julie Wendland and everyone who worked, donated and attended the Meatball Supper. The total earned is \$3,740, minus two outstanding bills. We will vote at our December general meeting how to dispense funds.

A Christmas brunch is being planned for Sat. Dec. 3 at 10 a.m., entitled "The Spirit of Christmas." This includes an egg bake, muffins, fruit kabobs, music, a bake sale and a toy sale. Tickets will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Please sign up in the gathering area to bring baked goods.

Thanksgiving Worship Services

Thanksgiving Eve with Holy Communion
Wed. Nov. 23
6:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day with Holy Communion
Thurs. Nov. 24
10:00 a.m.



Seniors Scene

It is hard to believe we're soon into November. That's the month of Thanksgiving. You may need a reminder that due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and that many of you have time-consuming plans, our Seniors Potluck group meets earlier in the month. Specifically, we will meet on Thurs. Nov. 10 at noon for potluck dinner. Our program will be Jim McKay telling us all about our Hutchinson Area Health Care ambulance service. Come to learn about the advanced training and performance of our ambulance service, along with their dedication to prompt and caring action. No one really wants to have to use this service. But when I speak with people who have had to, their words of praise and gratitude are huge. Come join us for this meeting, and bring a friend with you.

Also, if you are age 70 1/2 or beyond, you should be reminded that you may designate all or some of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA to your church, or charity of your choice, and it will be *tax-free*. That would result in a reduced taxable amount for you. Congress has extended this program through Dec. 31, 2011. If you are considering doing so, please check with your financial advisor or tax consultant.



New & Noteworthy Twentysomething

This is a brand-new group for young adults in Hutchinson. Numerous area churches are involved in the once-monthly group that meets on the first twentysomething Monday of the month (ex: we meet on Mon. Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Coffee Company). In order for this group to flourish, we need the news to spread. Visit [Facebook.com/TwentysomethingHutchinson](https://www.facebook.com/TwentysomethingHutchinson) for more information, and tell any twentysomethings (or thirtysomethings!) you know.

Zumba® Class

Starting Nov. 3, we will be offering a dance fitness program called Zumba® every Thursday night at 7 p.m. for just \$1 per time. We will be following along with a DVD. Here is what you need to know:

Zumba® is fun. No need to worry about how you look; it's an opportunity to have fun and get moving!

It's effective. Zumba® is an aerobic workout for all ages and skill levels that combines dance elements (samba, salsa, martial-arts, hip hop, Bollywood and bellydance) and aerobic elements (squats and lunges). Zumba® exercises include music with fast and slow rhythms and resistance training for fitness and losing weight.

It's different. You probably never thought you'd be exercising to this type of music - no dancing skills required! Zumba® is considered exercise in disguise, with a typical class burning between 500 and 1000 calories.

Come experience this group dance class at Faith Lutheran, beginning Thurs. Nov. 3 at 7 p.m.



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

Grand Meadows, Glencoe

Peg Tapper

Burns Manor

Valerie Fimon

Hazel Neuman

Agnes Rettman

Helen Goertzen

Gloria McKimm

Dorothy Klitzke

Jeri Jo Redman

Patricia Paulson

Muriel Zajicek



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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: There is more than one question in this question raised by a confirmation student. One has to do with human suffering and the assumption that God causes it. If someone has cancer, it must be that God “gave” it to him or her. God certainly could do that. He is the creator of life and has power over it. In Jeremiah 18, God compares himself to a potter making a pitcher out of clay. If the pitcher comes out wrong, the potter can mold the clay back into a ball and start over. God has that kind of power over us, too. That is why the Bible calls us to “fear the Lord,” to be aware of God’s awesome authority over all of creation.

But the Bible declares that God uses that power for good, not evil. The world He created was “very good” (Genesis 1:31), but human sin has broken it so that it doesn’t work as designed. The whole story of the Bible is how God has worked to save us from sin and bless us, not to inflict illness or suffering on us. When we do suffer, God uses even that to assure us of His love and mercy. In fact, many people find that suffering actually strengthens their faith, as they become aware of how much they depend on God and how present He is with them.

We will explore the other question in this question—the relationship between God’s actions and ours—in next month’s column.

If you have a question about the faith or the church that you have wondered about, send or bring it to the church office and see if you can “stump the pastor.”

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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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:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

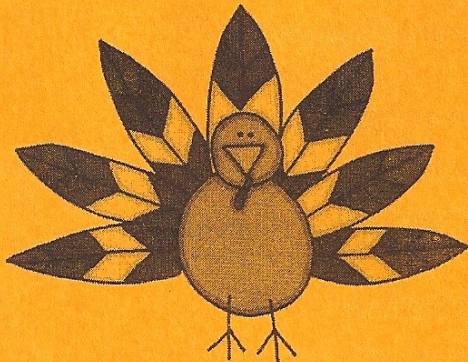
HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

Faith Kidz News

November 2011

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND - NOVEMBER 27

Sunday School will be held in the 9:15 service.
Kids—bring your parents!



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 3 YEARS-4TH GRADE

It is already time to starting thinking about the Christmas Program! It will be held at Park Elementary on December 18 at 2:00 p.m. and we are looking for help for practices and the big day! Please contact Kacie if you could help out behind the scenes— this is a big production and we need all the help we can get!

Please contact Kacie Lange with any questions or concerns.
(320)587-2093 or kaciel@faithlc.com

Keep your eyes open for these UPCOMING EVENTS:

MISSION AWARENESS PROGRAM - NOVEMBER 9

We will be packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child during our program at Peace Lutheran. The Sunday School kids have been working hard brining in items and donating money for shipping since the beginning of September to prepare for this!

All 2-5 graders are welcome to attend! See the purple insert for more information.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR 5 AND 6 GRADE DECEMBER 8

In place of a Christmas Program, the 5th and 6th graders are going to go Christmas caroling to people in our congregation on December 14!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

More information will be mailed home this month.
Feel free to contact Kacie with any questions!