

# Faith Matters

## Pastors' Page

## JULY 2017



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RADIO BROADCAST  
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.  
KDUZ 1260 AM

TV BROADCAST  
CABLE CH. 10  
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
AND 5 P.M.  
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.  
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is just around the corner. It comes about a third of the way into summer, but it often feels like the halfway point, which may be why it usually seems to arrive way too soon!

In the church, it is a natural time to thank God for the freedom of religion in this country that allows us to live out our faith without restriction or fear. But it's ironic that not too many people attend worship actually to give that thanks - because it is July 4<sup>th</sup>! We're at the lake, the cabin or someplace other than church. It's interesting that a holiday lifting up freedom of religion tends to produce freedom from religion!

Now, I know what people say. "It's one weekend a year." "Summers are so short in Minnesota." "We worship God in nature." "I don't have to come to church to be a Christian." And there is some truth in all of those. At the same time, casual commitment from Christians has troubled the Church from its earliest days. Hebrews 10:25 warns against "neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some." Perhaps not coincidentally, Christians are also known for easily adopting the values of the surrounding culture. Surveys show that Christians live in ways that are mostly indistinguishable from our non-believing neighbors, despite St. Paul's admonition, "Do not be conformed to this world." (Romans 12:2)

Why does our freedom to be Christians frequently not lead to eager commitment to Christ's Church? In his book *Strange Days*, Mark Sayers offers an intriguing answer. "We are born for struggle, created for a cause, formed for a great battle. We as individuals find meaning in struggle." That is the theme of most great novels, superhero comics and movies. Sayers continues, "The church is God's army. However, in the West she has been away from battle far too long. Not only has she forgotten how to fight, but she's forgotten that she's in battle. What is more, she's come to expect peace. Resistance is foreign to her. 'What battle?' she says. The armor of God is gathering dust in the corner."

That may help explain why the freedom to worship seems to produce apathy as much as commitment. We can take all sorts of things for granted if we don't have to fight for them, including the freedoms we celebrate on July 4<sup>th</sup>. But it is also just there that we can learn from our own history. Since the American Revolution succeeded, we can easily forget how likely it was to fail. The Founders risked it all by signing the Declaration of Independence, which concludes "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." There was a high likelihood that they would lose all three!

In one sense, the same is true for our Christian faith. There is a battle going on, whether we recognize it or not. Ephesians 6 says, "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against ... the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." It is a battle that we can lose, especially if we fail to see its constant assault. For example, it is telling

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# stump the pastor

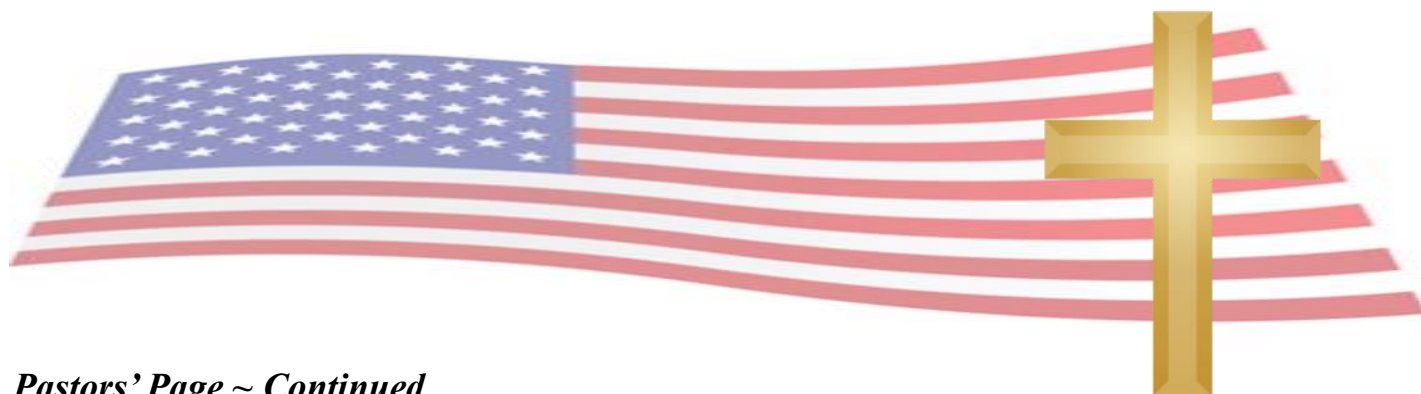
Q: When you go to heaven, can you ask for anything?

A: The Bible's few descriptions of heaven suggest that the answer is both yes and no.

Revelation 6:9-11 portrays Christians "who had been slaughtered for the word of God" resting "under the altar" in heaven. They "cried out with a loud voice," asking God, "how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of earth?" That expressed an anguished challenge to God's integrity and commitment to justice. It suggests that we can not only ask questions but ask about anything.

The martyrs, however, ask their question before Christ wins the final battle against sin and evil. By the end of the book, all His enemies are defeated and Revelation 21 portrays a scene of perfection where there is no suffering anymore. God "himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

In the end, the promise is that, while we *can* ask for anything in heaven, we will not *need* to ask for anything, because all things will have come together in Christ Jesus. What a glorious future is ours through Christ!



## *Pastors' Page ~ Continued*

that the great hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers," is rarely sung anymore and was omitted from many recent hymnals. Is that because its battle imagery does not even make sense to us anymore?

But while we could lose this battle, Christ Jesus cannot, because he has already won it on the cross and his victory cannot be reversed. That gives us every reason to commit ourselves to his cause, for as "Onward Christian Soldiers" powerfully declares,

"Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane.  
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.  
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail.  
We have Christ's own promise and that cannot fail."

That is a cause worth fighting for with our lives and fortunes and sacred honor!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott

## Imagine Capital Campaign

The Imagine capital campaign concludes at the end of this year. Late this fall, a new campaign will begin for the next three years. (Turnover in church members and changing life circumstances dictate that these campaigns not last any longer than that.) As it appears now, about \$1.3-\$1.4 million in gifts over those three years will allow Faith Lutheran to pay off the mortgage by the time of her 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. That is the same amount raised in the WOW campaign 13 years ago and it would mean paying off a 25-year loan in 10 years. What a celebration that would be! Let's join together to make this a reality.



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## Christian Life Management

I saw a comment on-line a few weeks ago from someone who was looking for a church. Among the person's criteria was a church that would not ask for money. My first thought was, "Good luck with that!" Churches have no other source of income than asking people to give.

My second thought, though, was how common that sentiment may be. Most churches approach the topic about as gently as possible, but still, few aspects of church life seem to bother people more than the call to give - and I suspect there are as many reasons for that as there are people who object to it.

The goal of Christian Life Management (or Biblical stewardship) is to see giving to the work of God's kingdom as a joyful opportunity, a chance to express thanks to God and faith in his steadfast providing. It is a way to participate in the mission of the church beyond what our own time and abilities allow.

Christians who are grasped by CLM would not look for a church that does not ask them to give, but would only consider a church that does. That may be too much to expect on this side of heaven, but we can keep aiming for the goal!



## LCMC Annual Convention in Minneapolis

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is the church body to which Faith Lutheran belongs. Faith is also a member of the Augustana District, which is a group of churches within LCMC.

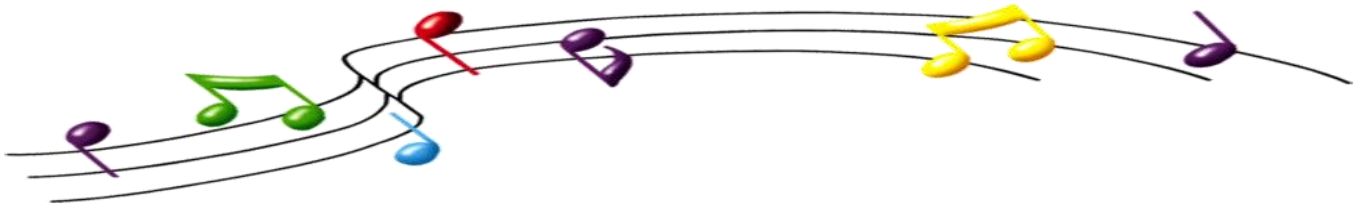
LCMC holds two national events each year. The bigger one is its annual convention and, this fall, it will be held in Minneapolis on October 8-11. The theme will focus on the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation and our own Pastor Dave will preach at the closing worship service! Anyone in LCMC can attend the convention and there is an option to come for one or two days.

This is the first time in years that the annual convention has been held this close to Hutchinson. It is a great opportunity to learn more about LCMC and the work we do together through it. All the information is available at [www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering](http://www.lcmc.net/annual-gathering) or in a paper brochure in the church office.



by: *Paul Cravens*, Director of Music and Worship

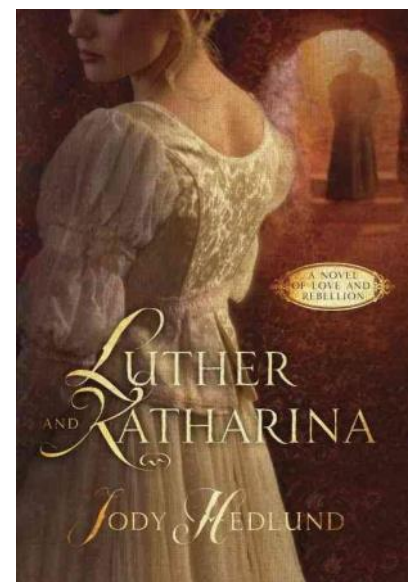
Recently, I had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. and participate in the Young Composer and Conductor Mentor Project, a national initiative for new concert band music. As the name suggests, the program aims to foster the development of young musicians through guidance by established composers and conductors, and to give them a chance to work with a professional-grade wind ensemble – in this case the United States Air Force Band. As a composer participant, I was (and still am) in awe of the musical capabilities of the Band, and I can only imagine what it must have felt like to conduct such a group. All this aside, one of the more profound moments of the week for me came in the form of a conversation with one of the conducting mentors, Anthony Maiello. An astoundingly passionate educator and conductor, Professor Maiello is also a dedicated Christian; while I had supposed this from his mannerisms, he later confirmed it verbally. As we were talking the day after the concert, he asked if I was a believer, because my music seemed to embody a great reverence and spirituality. I said yes, and asked if he was as well, to which he responded: “Oh yes. I can’t even give a downbeat without Him.” I will never forget these words, nor the incredible encouragement that they brought. In an industry where the pursuit of artistic perfection can easily become an idol, it is deeply moving to see that there are still some at the very top who rely on yet a higher power. May it be so in all our lives, so that “whatever (we) do, whether in word or deed, (we) do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” (Colossians 3:17)



### Faith Book Club Review by *Marsha Schmit*

*Luther and Katharina* by Jody Hedlund was this month’s Faith Book Club read. From the first page, this book captured my attention. Although, thanks to our pastors, I feel I know a good amount about our beloved Martin Luther and some about his wife, former nun Katharina von Bora, this historical novel brings to life some of the other issues they faced during the 1500’s. This is an engaging book and wonderfully written by a delightful author with whom we had the chance to talk via Skype at our monthly gathering.

If you are interested in reading *Luther and Katharina*, a copy is available in the Luther Library on the third floor.









## **Pie for Music in the Park**

The Faith Lutheran Church Women will be serving pie for Music in the Park on Monday, July 3. This will be an evening of great music by the *Gravel Road* band in our beautiful Library Square, along with delicious pies and ice cream. Dust off your favorite recipe and bake a pie to deliver to the church by 4 p.m. or to the park by 6 p.m. (No cream pies please as they do not do well in the heat.) You can also sign-up at the church to help serve the pie at the park.



## **ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN**

One of the ministries that Faith Lutheran Church Women support is Orphan Grain Train. FLCW sends quilts, upholstery blankets, baby blankets and pillowcase dresses to OGT. OGT sent a recent updated newsletter, listing some of their current ministries.

- Food, clothing, educational supplies to orphans in Manila, Philippines
- Hay to ranchers in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas due to wild fires
- Coats, boots, food to orphanages in Russia
- Working with prisoners at a South Dakota state prison to pack food for missions.
- Help provide Bibles, food and clothing at a homeless shelter in Omaha, NE. The shelter serves 2,000 meals each day.



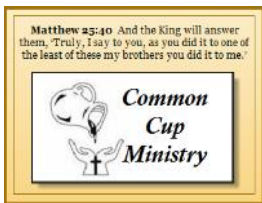
### **RECYCLING**

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** Once again we have new containers for our recyclables. We will be sharing them with Peace Lutheran as McLeod County only has one set of the containers. This means that every Friday they should be picked up, emptied, and moved between Faith and Peace. If they are not here one week, know that they will be here the next week. So please, save your cardboard and paper and recycle them here as we receive funds based on the weight of what we collect that will be used for missions.

### **COFFEE**

We are no longer able to get the 14 oz. canisters of coffee from Equal Exchange, so we have gone back to ordering the 12 oz. bags. Sister's Blend is no longer available, so we currently have the Breakfast Blend and the Decaf. If you would like a different flavor, such as French Roast, Mind, Body and Soul, or Café Salvador, which is what is used on Sunday mornings, please let Diane know and we will do our best to include it in the next order. Thank you for supporting Equal Exchange.





### Hutchinson

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320-587-2213

Website: [www.common-cup.org](http://www.common-cup.org)

### Glencoe

1022 12th St E Ste 100  
Glencoe, MN 55336  
320-864-5511

### Community Meal Sunday, July 9

4-6 p.m.

It will be an outdoor picnic at Veteran's Park. Come join us!

### Fare for All Delivery

**Thursday, July 27**

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Check out the monthly special posted outside the church office.



School Supply Distribution takes place **Wednesday, August 23, 5-8 p.m. and Thursday, August 24, 9 to 11 a.m.** at Crosspoint Church in Hutchinson and Helen Baker Elementary in Glencoe. Each member church has been asked to choose certain supplies to collect for the drive. Faith Lutheran has chosen to be in charge of collecting **High-lighters, 4 packs of Dry Erase Markers and 1" 3-Ring Binders**

**with clear front pockets.** Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corner.

Thank you for supporting this ministry. **Applications** for supplies are available in the Common Cup Corner and are **due by August 4.**

The **Shoe Away Hunger** bus will be here during school supply distribution. Shoes will be available for purchase, kids shoes \$2 and adult shoes \$5. All proceeds help to fund "Good in the Hood feeding Programs".



The **Summer Feeding Program** kicked off on **May 30** and runs through **August 11.** Meals are served at the Middle School Cafeteria from 11:30-1:00 for ages 1-18. Special activities organized by a 4H Coordinator will be happening on July 24.

**Laundry Love Ministry** takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. That will be **July 18** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7.



**Diaper Distribution** takes place the last Tuesday of each month. That will be **July 25,** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CCM office. Donations are always welcome and can be left in either Common Cup Corner.

Please donate your unused, road-ready bikes to **Wheels of Mercy**, which is a program organized and administered through CtK.



### HungerFree McLeod Backpack Program

FLC has chosen to be the sponsor in charge of collecting **200 fruit and 200 applesauce cups** that are given to students each week. Please remember these children in need each week as you purchase your groceries. Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corner. Thank you for your ongoing support!

## Upcoming Thrivent Action Plan Opportunities

Thank you to those who are asking about and supporting the ministry of Faith through Thrivent Action Plans! Members of Thrivent can fill out a simple on-line application. Then Thrivent will send you a \$250 card to use as "Seed Money" for an event or activity. This money can be used for fundraising events, educational events and other church/community activities. Upcoming opportunities at Faith that could use sponsorship are listed below. Please note that it can take a couple of weeks for this to be processed through Thrivent, so you will want to apply early for these events.

*Coming up in July and August:* Food and Supplies for Club 218, Community Meals, Hunger Free Fruit, Faith Family Fun Activities including Faith Day at the Lake and Fall Extravaganza, Men's of Faith Events, Compline, HAY Retreat, Mystery Bus, 7th Grade Welcome Event, 8th Grade Leadership Lock-in, College Mission Trip and the FLY Mission Trip.



# ***Come to Outdoor Worship!***



Worship outdoors continues Sundays through September 3 (weather permitting), at Library Square beginning at 10:10 a.m. Bring your chair or blanket, bring your kids or neighbors, and join in worship of our great God in the great outdoors. If inclement weather forces us to move back inside, the change will be announced on KDUZ radio and posted on our Facebook page (so like our page today!). The First Word service will continue in the sanctuary each Sunday at 8 a.m. Holy Communion will be distributed at both services the first and second Sunday of each month.

Mark your calendars now!

## **Faith Day at the Lake**

Join us for a fun afternoon and evening  
at **Piepenburg Park** on beautiful Bell Lake



**Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Potluck Picnic**

**Relaxing**

**Swimming**

**Fishing**

**Games**

**S'mores**

**Closing Worship  
by the  
Campfire**



## **Attention ~ Important Confirmation Change!**

Due to the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, Faith Lutheran Church has changed the date of the 2017 confirmation service from October 29 to **1:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 5.**

Please make note of this change and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



## **Fall Extravaganza ~ At Library Square**

**Sunday, August 27 ~ 11:15 a.m. -1:00 p.m.**

This annual event is a kick-off for the fall program year.

There will be a Sunday School registration table, food, games and something for everyone to participate in. Mark the date on your calendars now so that your family can be a part of this exciting annual event.







# Thoughts and Prayers

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

Lance Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Fort Pendleton, CA -  
son of Dawn Bos)

Sgt. Jason Gaulke (El Paso, TX - nephew of Alice Fransen)

Andrew Hantge (Navy, Virginia Beach, VA - son of Marsha  
Schmit and Robert Hantge)

Mason Rutledge (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son of Lenny and Patti  
Rutledge)

Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth Air National Guard - son of Dave &  
Marian Skaar)

LT Brett Stadsklev (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son-in-law of Judy and  
Tom Felber)

Lance Corporal Nathan Thunstrom (Marines, San Diego, CA - son  
of Andy & Shelly Hedin and grandson of Dennis & Barb Hedin)



Remember our Faith members in  
nursing homes & health care centers

## Cedar Crest – Cosmos

Patricia Lambert

## Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Bernice Vorbeck

## Cokato Manor

Patricia Paulson

## Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

## Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

## Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Helen Sandlund

## Harmony River

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Harvey Skorheim

Charlie & Harriet Thor

## Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

## Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

## Woodstone

Don Fitzgerald

Betty Garberich

Lucille Yukel

## Faith Lutheran Church

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