

# Faith Matters

## Pastor's Page

I'm a sucker for interesting lists on the internet. Whether it is a list of the top action movies of the decade or a list of ten different ways to maximize social media, I'm in! The other day I clicked on a link an old friend had posted on Facebook. Why? Because the title was "23 unbelievable facts that will destroy your understanding of time!" How could I resist?

Here's some of what I learned:

**Every two minutes, we take as many photos as all of humanity took during the 1800s.** Let's face it, camera phones + digital cameras + narcissism = lots of pictures!

**If you're over 45, the world population has doubled in your lifetime.** It's getting a little crowded around here!

**Betty White is older than sliced bread.** Otto Frederick Rohwedder invented sliced bread in 1928, while Betty White was born in 1922. Bread had existed prior, just not in the pre-sliced form.

**There is more processing power in a TI-83 calculator (which our high schoolers use for math) than in the computer that landed Apollo 11 on the moon.** One small step for math...

**Oxford University is older than the Aztecs.** Teaching started in Oxford as early as 1096, and by 1249, the University was officially founded. The Aztec civilization as we know it began with the founding of Tenochtitlán in 1325. No word on how good the early Oxford row team was...

Is your mind blown? I found some of those revelations to be extraordinary! But that's just a warm-up. If you think those revelations are mind-blowing, read this, from a sermon by Dr. James Allan Francis:

There is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth – His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

But that's not the most mind-blowing thing. What most blows my mind is that Jesus did this all for me, and for you, even though neither of us deserve it! So as we continue to journey with Jesus to the cross my prayer is that the old, old story is renewed in your heart, and that the good news continues to blow your mind!

See you in church,

Pastor Dave

# Why Give? A Reflection on Biblical Stewardship

The Bible often stresses the importance of “first fruits” offerings. In the agricultural setting of ancient Israel, that meant the first crops harvested each year. But it still applies to all of us who work for a paycheck instead. God calls us to determine and give our offerings *before* we pay other expenses.

Why is it important to give our offerings first? One reason is practical. Offerings are all freely given. God never sends a bill! If offerings are put off until last or given from what is “left over,” we can often find that there is not much to give.

More importantly, “first fruits” offerings are a matter of *trust*. To give first builds faith that God provides everything we have and are, and will continue to do so. In Malachi 3, God challenged Judah, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse...and thus put me to the test... See if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” That is not some get-rich-quick scheme. To give first will likely affect how we manage the rest of our money. But God has promised and proven that He is trustworthy and

will continue to give us every good thing we need. So, go ahead. Take God up on this offer and see what blessings flow into your life.

## Monthly Financial Update

|                             | Actual YTD  | Budget 2015 | Budget Remaining |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Gen Fund Inc                | 86,098.67   | 762,219.00  | 676,120.33       |
| Gen Fund Exp                | 106,423.47  | 762,219.00  | 655,795.53       |
| Net Income/Loss (20,324.80) |             |             |                  |
| Other Income*               | 12,881.92   |             |                  |
| Other Expenses**            | 8,339.53    |             |                  |
| Net Other Income            | 4,542.39    |             |                  |
| Funds Needed                | Avg Weekly  | 14,658      |                  |
|                             | Avg Monthly | 63,518      |                  |

\*Simply Giving Funds to be transferred to the Maint.& Repair and Imagine Capital Appeal Funds.

\*\*Simply Giving Funds that have been transferred to the Maint. & Repair and Imagine Capital Appeal Funds.



## Capital Campaign

Pledges and gifts have continued to come in as Faith Lutheran catches the vision of the *Imagine* capital campaign. Have you joined the effort—as God has blessed you to do so? If you have, thank you! If not, please join the Faith family in this effort to pay for the new building addition as quickly and economically as possible. In all the mission and ministry that occurs in this space every week, we see how something as down-to-earth as a building is a vital part of God’s saving work among us.

## Faith Lutheran Church

### INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

#### Pastors

|                            |                     |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Scott Grorud               | 320-587-0171 (home) | scottg@faithlc.com  |
| Dave Wollan                | 320-583-2385 (cell) | davidw@faithlc.com  |
| Paul Knudson               | 320-587-2227 (home) | paulk@faithlc.com   |
| Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation | 320-234-9753 (home) | paulusp@faithlc.com |

#### Staff

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism | marshas@faithlc.com  |
| Gladys Bonnema, Youth & Family Ministry               | gladysb@hutchtel.net |
| Wendy Toops, Director of Children & Family Ministry   | wendyt@faithlc.com   |
| Mike Lauer, Director of Music and Worship             | mikel@faithlc.com    |
| Wendy Mayland, Administrative Assistant               | wendym@faithlc.com   |
| Diane Pedersen, Finance Coordinator                   | dianep@faithlc.com   |
| Keith Lange, Maintenance                              |                      |
| Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator             | brodd@hutchtel.net   |

# Digging Deeper

Short-term studies are offered on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Dig deeper at Faith Lutheran with these classes that began on February 22, 2015:



## **Candid Confessions of Imperfect Parents**

Ever feel like you're not sure how to parent your teenagers? You're not alone. In this class we'll use Jonathan McKee's book to discuss how to connect with your kids, how to teach lasting values to teenagers in an R-rated world, and how to put parenting blunders behind you. (*Sanctuary*)

## ***"We Are in Bondage to Sin." Really?***

That familiar phrase from the prayer of confession reflects a vital—and highly controversial—element of Lutheran theology, the Bondage of the Will. We will explore the Biblical basis for the conviction that our wills are bound by sin, so that Christ alone can free us for faith and new life. (*Faith Center*)

## **Coming Home**

This series will explore the many ways we can get lost from God and the various ways Jesus works to bring us home to God. Headline Topics are:

Feb. 22: "So Close and Yet So Far from Home"

Mar. 1: "Sent Away? Who Comes Home and Why?"

Mar. 8: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling: Come Home"

Mar. 15: "When Strays Get Lost, What Then?"

Mar. 22: "Nomads, When There Is No Place Called Home"

Mar. 29: "Not Until We Are Home Is the Father Satisfied"

(*Office Conference Room*)

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## **Throughout March**

**we will be continuing our Lenten Theme**

**which will end on Maundy Thursday.**

March 22 ~ Palm Sunday

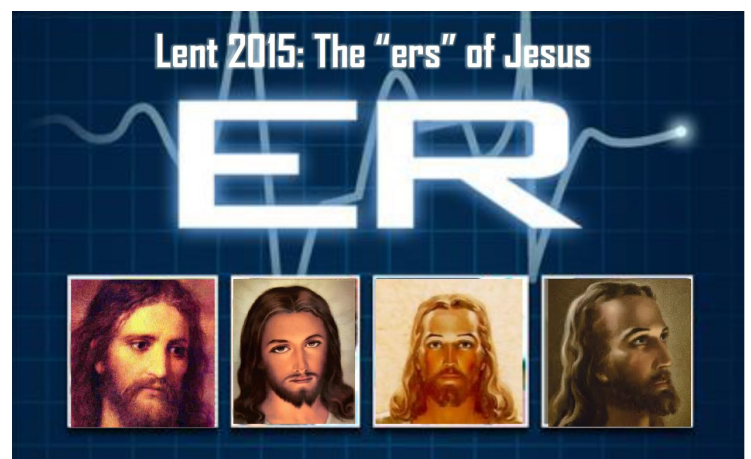
April 2 ~ Maundy Thursday Services with Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m

April 3 ~ Good Friday Services with Christ the King, 12:00 p.m. Service at Faith and 6:30 p.m. Service at CTK

April 4 ~ Holy Saturday

April 5 ~ Easter Sunday

Services at 6, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.



RebukER – TeachER – HealER – LeadER – StorytellER – Master – GivER

## **Common Cup Corner**

Common Cup's annual meeting/open house is **Thursday, March 19, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm**. Stop in at 105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2, and learn firsthand about the services you help provide for McLeod County residents in need.

### **Services Available:**

**HungerFree McLeod's** backpack program provides weekend food for students on the free/reduced program in McLeod County schools. It currently serves around 200 children grades K-3 each week. The cost is approximately \$5.00 per child per week or \$1,000 each weekend. Check out our Common Cup Corner located outside the church office to see what is provided for these children. All donations are greatly appreciated.

**Diaper Distribution:** March 31, 2015 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Common Cup Ministry Office 105 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW Suite #2

**Country Table:** Provides monthly food purchased at discount prices, EBT can be used. Distribution takes place at Christ the King between 11:00 am and Noon. Arrangements can be made through Common Cup if you are unable to make that pick-up time. **Place an order by April 1 for delivery on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> by calling Sherry Kenney at 320-583-4139.**

**FOUR packages to choose from: Prices range from \$13-28**

### **FUNDRAISERS:**

**5K Run/Walk** – Saturday, May 9 – Masonic West River Park, Hutchinson – Registration forms are available in the church office. Registration begins at 9:30 am with the walk beginning at 10:00 am and the run beginning at 10:30 am. Come and get in your morning run/walk while helping support Common Cup and the work they do. Hope to see you there!

**Dairy Queen:** Make a purchase between 4:00 and 8:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10, and a portion will benefit Common Cup. What an easy and delicious way to support such a great ministry.

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## **Tim Orth Memorial Foundation**

The 17th Annual Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Basketball Jamboree will be held at Glencoe/Silver Lake High School on Saturday, March 28. The doors open at 4 p.m. with the games beginning at 5:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$8.00 and students \$6.00.

Male and female area high school senior athletes will play two basketball games. Entertainment will be provided by the Glencoe/Silver Lake High School Danceline, DJ, Kelly's Dance Academy, Laketown Gymnastics, Touch of Grace Dance, Hutch Key club, Hutch Tigers Special Olympics, Therapy Dogs, Jingle Therapy plus much more. The proceeds from this even will help defray medical expenses of Spencer Petschl, Eliana Welbes, Victor Skaro from Waconia, Raylan Sonnenberg from Plato, Zack Eder from Cologne, Shawn McHugh from Silver Lake, Levi Arens from Lester Prairie, Dylann Paradeis from Minnetrista, Audrey Cole, Draven LeVasseur, Emily Pedersen, Cora Baldry and Emma Olmscheid from Hutchinson. For more information call Ralph Johnson (320-587-6733) or Don Tangen (320-864-6010)

Donations to the Tim Orth Foundation may be mailed to Ralph Johnson, 558 Juergens Rd, Hutchinson, MN 55350 or Don Tangen, PO Box 33, Glencoe, MN 55336.

We encourage you to attend this event.

Thank You!

# Music Notes

The year has started out strong with a couple of fine performances by both the choir and the bell choir. The members of the choir encouraged me to have us sing from the balcony and it might be a challenge to bring us back down! The bell choir has welcomed a few new members and finally had its Christmas party. The Lenten season will be busy with extra performances and late rehearsals, but we're always looking for new members to join!

February had an opportunity for a new young adult worship team to lead at the Foundation service, and they did a wonderful job. This is a group we're hoping will grow both in numbers and in opportunities to lead worship. Also, the FLY Band played at parent's night and did an extraordinary job, as always. Plus, the Hooded Bunnies (basically the FLY Band) performed their second number.

In the past month we've had four of our youth perform special music and it's been a pleasure to work alongside our talented high school musicians. They're welcome any time!

Compline will be celebrating its first year anniversary in March! Come and join us for worship on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Finally, Gladys has requested that I record my arrangement of the Doxology for the youth group. The pressure is on!

Mike Lauer, Director of Music and Worship

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## stump the pastor

*Q: If Jews are God's chosen people,  
why did God let the Holocaust happen?*

A: This question from a confirmand is one of the most haunting of our day. It has challenged the faith of Jews and Christians alike. I do not pretend to know the answer to it. These are only a few thoughts that come to mind.

First, while the scale and systematic nature of the Holocaust were unprecedented, the hatred of Jews that drove it was, tragically, nothing new. The first attempt at Jewish genocide is recorded in Esther, in the Bible. Persecution of Jews (though rarely genocidal) is one of the blackest marks on Christian history. Is it possible that, simply because God did elect the Jews as His Chosen People, they elicit such persistent hatred and oppression?

Very possibly, because when God Himself came to this world in Jesus, he was also rejected, abused and executed—at the hands of Jews and Gentiles alike! Today, Christianity has overtaken Judaism for the dubious honor of being the world's most persecuted religion. It seems that wherever God is at work in this sinful world, opposition results. Indeed, hatred of Jews—and increasingly Christians—persists and is growing in our day.

So why does God allow such opposition and enmity toward the Jews to occur? The best answer I can give is an insight borrowed from a fellow pastor. "A long time ago, God decided not to *fix* the world, but to *save* it instead." In order to redeem people and the world, which are both not only affected *by* sin, but infected *with* it, it is due to God's mercy that He has chosen not simply to eradicate evil, for that would mean eradicating the whole creation (Matthew 13:24-30).

Instead, God took on all the powers of evil in Christ Jesus and won an eternal victory over them through his death and resurrection. As that victory works its way to completion, the forces of evil still seek to do all the damage they can, but they cannot win. The will of God, revealed and achieved in Christ, shall be fulfilled and evil will be destroyed forever. Until then, we join St. Paul in praying, "Our Lord, come!" (I Corinthians 16:22)

## Getting to know the Staff

### ***Pastor Dave Wollan***

**Tell me about where you grew up, where and when you met Andrea, your family, your kids, anything interesting about yourself...** I was born a well-off half-Asian child in the West Metro area. My dad met my mom in Taiwan while he was in the air force. My folks were divorced when I was in first grade, and both remarried, so I have one real sister, one half-brother, and seven step-sisters! I graduated from Wayzata High School and went to college at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle (LBI), where I met my good-lookin' wife, Andrea. We both graduated with BA's in Youth and Family Ministry. After college we shared a full-time position as Youth Directors at Como Park Lutheran in St. Paul.

**How long have you been a member at Faith?** We were blessed to come to Faith Lutheran in 2001. I submitted my résumé for the youth minister opening on the last day they were taking them- weird, I know! It's been a great place to serve the Lord and raise a family.

**Where did you attend seminary?** In 2009, because of the recommendation and encouragement of Pastors Randy, Scott, and Dave, I enrolled at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Four and a half years later, I was in position to step into the vacant pastor position after Randy left.

**Tell me about your job duties here.** So I went from playing 4-square and hanging out with teens while wearing cargo shorts and flip-flops to preaching and teaching all ages, sometimes in blue-jeans, sometimes in a clerical collar (and still get to mix in some 4-Square and teen time).

**What do you like best about your position at Faith?** I love my new role, especially getting to know people in a new way. I love preaching, creating, and nurturing. I have really enjoyed trying to build relationships with some of the new folks that have been checking out Faith. It's a blast working with a fun, energetic, and faithful staff and with the committed, faithful leaders this church has been blessed with.

**And the hardest part about your job?** The best part is also the hardest part! It's hard to preach, create, and nurture! It's hard-actually, impossible- to get to know everyone. It's hard not wearing flip-flops! :) It's a great challenge and keeps me on my toes.

**Favorite Bible verse:** I have many. Romans 8:38-39, 2 Timothy 1:7, Elijah on Mount Carmel in 1 Kings 18, among others. But the verse I find myself falling back on a lot these days, and the verse I have used during a lot of pastoral care situations, is Isaiah 43:1-5. Read it. It's amazing.

**We love having you be Pastor here, Dave and look forward to the years ahead!**

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## **Faith Lutheran Church Women**

Thank you to those who cleaned the church kitchen in January. It is sparkling again thanks to you efforts.

If you're in the kitchen check out our new Bunn 12 cup coffee maker purchased by the FLCW after the previous one quit working.

Excitement is building for the Annual Rummage Sale April 16-18. You can start bringing items to the church on Monday, April 13th from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Items may include furniture, tools from the garage or the kitchen, decorative, holiday, craft and sewing items, linens, clothes, shoes, purses, hats, gloves, toys, books, etc.

PLEASE ~ NO large appliances or exercise equipment, TV's or computers.

This is a great opportunity to clean out your house, maybe find a few new treasures you might love AND in the meantime, support women's ministries.

# SENIORS SCENE

Looks to me like “deep freeze” weather doesn’t stop our rugged Seniors. I saw mostly Seniors at the Valentine party recently. Thanks for your support for our youth, who are working hard in preparation for their next mission trip. Didn’t those youth do a splendid job serving us, especially with good leadership from Gladys Bonnema?

Neither did cold weather stop a number of Seniors from serving ice cream to our youth at their Wednesday night meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The youth were most appreciative of the efforts of Ken Holler, Dick and Dorothy Desens, Alice Poshek, Elaine Blade, Glenda Jonsen, Bobbi Knudson, Diane Pedersen, Gladys and Paulus Pilgrim. Thanks to you all!

On March 26<sup>th</sup> we’ll have a repeat program, from last year. “Stump The Pastors”

was so well received that the steering committee demanded we do it again. They didn’t seek the pastors’ input. So guys....keep healthy and alert!!

We’ll meet on **Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**, beginning with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. After dinner and devotions we’ll summon the pastors forward and put them on the spot. Have your questions handy, IN WRITING, placed in the question box. We’ll have paper and pencils ready in case you think of some questions during dinner.

Oh yes.....give someone your second “**See you at Seniors Potluck**” pen, and invite them to come for good fellowship and learning. See Pastor Paulus if you need another pen for another invitation. In the meantime, keep warm somehow; and PLEASE, walk slowly and deliberately on the icy sidewalks and parking lot.

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## Things that are Happening at Faith

**Prayer Ministry:** Prayer time before our Lenten services: 5:45 – 6:15 (worship will follow at 6:30). Come as you can. We will be meeting in the upstairs conference room and will start at 5:45. If you need to come in late, please just come in quietly and join in. Please contact Marsha with questions: [marshas@faithlc.com](mailto:marshas@faithlc.com) or 234-8400.

**Lenten Picnic** ~ Join us on March 25th from 5-6:15 p.m. for a picnic style supper before the Lenten Service.

# DATES TO REMEMBER:

## **SUN. MARCH 1**

7 p.m. Compline

## **WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 4 – 25**

5:45 p.m. Prayer Ministry

6:30 p.m. Lenten Services  
(combined with Confirmation)

## **SUN. MARCH 8**

*Daylight Savings Time*

## **TUES. MARCH 17**

8:00 a.m. Middle School Release Time

6:00 p.m. Ministry Teams and Council Meetings

## **SUN. MARCH 22**

*Palm Sunday*

1:00 p.m. Faith Family Fun Day at the Paint Factory

## **WED. MARCH 25**

5 p.m. Picnic Supper before Lenten Service

## **FRI. MARCH 27**

7 p.m. Middle School Powerhouse at Christ the King

## **SAT. MARCH 28**

4:00 p.m. Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Jamboree in Glencoe

## **THUR. APRIL 2**

*Maundy Thursday*

6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Services with Holy Communion

## **FRI. APRIL 3**

*Good Friday*

Joint services with Christ the King  
Noon at Faith and 6:30 p.m. at CtK

## **SUN. APRIL 5**

*Easter Sunday*

Services at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## **APRIL 16 – 18**

Faith Lutheran Rummage Sale

# 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) Son of Dave & Marian Skaar

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## BOOK SPOTLIGHT

*Written by Marsha Schmit*

This month, the Faith Lutheran Book Club read and discussed *The Captive Heart* by Dale Cramer.

In the spring of 1922, Caleb Bender escaped religious oppression in Ohio and brought his extended Amish family to start a new settlement in Paradise Valley in Mexico. It was a difficult move, building new homes and digging a well, laborious, and the area dangerous with threatening bandits traveling around. But the family prospered with their new crops in the lush valley. Two more Amish families came to the area to join them and more homes were built.

With talk of a minister coming, babies being born and crops thriving, things were good in Paradise Valley. Then things started to take a turn for the worse. Not only were the families being preyed upon by bandits, disease was spreading and a few of their small community died. During these difficult times, they relied heavily on their faith. They also relied on one of the locals, Domingo, who had experience with the bandits and wasn't afraid of standing up to them even if it meant using violence which the Amish were strongly against. One of Caleb's daughters, Miriam, finds herself falling in love with Domingo and wonders if he feels the same. At the same time, she struggles with the possibility of a relationship with this native man who is not Amish and would force her to choose between him and her family.

This historical fiction is well-written, an interesting topic and intriguing to read. I recommend it!

(*The Captive Heart* is available to borrow from Faith's "Luther Library" on the second floor by the elevator.)

*The Faith Book Club meets the second Monday of each month. Please contact Marsha Schmit for more information.*

Remember our  
Faith members in  
Nursing Homes &  
Health Care Centers

### Cedar Crest (Silver Lake)

Nadine Dalin

### Lakeside (Dassel)

Dorothy Getz

### 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