



Faith Matters

October 2015

Pastor's Page

I receive a newsletter from Crossways International (CI), the publisher of the Crossways Bible studies that I teach here at Faith. CI promotes its studies around the world and the most recent newsletter included a note from Rev. Neville Mirtschin, who recently taught some Bible courses in Vietnam. He was detained by the authorities for 10 days and fined \$1,000 for doing so, but was released unharmed.

Reflecting on the whole experience, Pastor Mirtschin wrote, "It did my heart good to observe Vietnamese Lutherans bringing their own Bible to (worship) as well as to Bible studies. What a joy to see children (including orphans) from grade three upwards delve into the Bibles as though they were searching for treasure! Their Bibles were not ornaments on a coffee table. I saw numerous Bibles whose pages were yellow with use and the page corners were dog-eared. Many pages in their Bibles looked like a rainbow, as passages were marked with variously colored highlighters. The faith evident in the Vietnamese has brought the word of God from the tattered, printed pages into their hearts."

What a witness from these fellow Christians who worship and study under the cloud of persecution! We Americans often—and rightly!—express great thanks for the freedom to worship in this country. But I sometimes wonder if, just because we *can* read the Bible *any* time, it makes it easier to take it for granted and let it slip into disuse, because we can always read it some *other* time. That is a luxury that Christians in other parts of the world don't have, especially where they face persecution.

Let's take the example of those Vietnamese Lutherans to heart. Let's use our Bibles every day until they also are yellowed by use, dog-eared from flipping back and forth, and filled with notes, highlights and cross-references. Join one of the many Bible studies that meet each week at Faith. Search your Bible for the "treasure hidden in a field" and the "pearl of great price" (Matthew 13:44-45), knowing that the Holy Spirit has promised to speak through these inspired texts in order to do God's saving work in your heart and mind.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCT. 6

Meatball Supper

OCT. 9-10

9th Grade Confirmation Retreat

OCT. 11

Faith Family Fun Day ~ Paint Pumpkins, Pizza and Pie

OCT. 15 - 18

MEA High School Retreat

OCT. 17

Mugs and Muffins

OCT. 19

9th Grade Confirmation Reception

OCT. 20

Ministry Teams and Council Meetings

OCT. 24

9th Grade Confirmation Pictures and Rehearsal

OCT. 25

Reformation Sunday
2nd Graders Receive Bibles
Confirmation Service

OCT. 28

Trick or Treat for the Foodshelf

OCT. 31

Burritos & Bibles

stump the pastor

Q: If “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), why do animals die? Do they also sin?

A: Animals do not sin in the way humans do. Since they are not able to know God, they cannot rebel against God or fail to trust Him. Because humans alone are made “in the image

of God” (Genesis 1:27), only we bear that kind of responsibility before God.

But all of creation is caught up in the reality of sin. The first chapters of Genesis describe how the whole world was fractured by the sin of Adam and Eve. Its effects show up frequently in nature. The “law of the jungle” is not just a metaphor. Predators hunt their prey without mercy. Natural disasters and disease, famine and drought occur with disturbing regularity.

That is why God’s promise of redemption includes the renewal of all creation. In Romans 8, Paul writes, “The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” One of Isaiah’s glorious visions of the Messianic kingdom promises that “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and fatling together... The cow and bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.” (Isaiah 11:6-7)

God created the whole cosmos and remains committed to the redemption of all that He made. The Bible gives us only hints of how God will work all this out in the end (Do dogs go to heaven? Beats me!), but we can be absolutely sure that Jesus Christ, through whom “all things came into being... and without (whom) not one thing came in being” (John 1:3) is the same Jesus Christ who “will gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” (Ephesians 1:10)

LCMC Annual Convention

In early October, seven people will be representing Faith Lutheran Church at the annual convention of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) in Dallas, TX. LCMC is an association of 854 churches in the United States and abroad. Faith has belonged to it from its founding in 2001. You can learn more about it at www.lcmc.net.

Please keep Dick and Dorothy Desens, Ellen Juul, Jan Kreie, Pastors’ Scott, Dave and Paul in prayer as they travel to Texas.

Mission tables will be hosted and presentations made by these members as Faith continues to provide servant leadership to the wider LCMC family.

Faith was also a founding member of the Augustana District of LCMC, a non-geographic district of about 60 churches that work together in the three areas of Theology, Church and Mission. The offices of the Augustana District are housed at Faith. Wendy Mayland and Diane Pedersen provide administrative support for it. Pastor Paul Knudson is co-chair of the AD Board of World Missions. You can find out more at www.augustanadistrict.org.

These two associations link Faith to ministry locally, regionally and globally. They are living examples of the many members in the one Body of Christ.





Capital Campaign

With school-year ministries back in full swing, the church is packed and buzzing almost every day of the week. It is a wonderful reminder of what a great tool for ministry the new building is. Even in our sixth year of using it, it is still a marvel how well it works and what a variety of ministry it makes possible. Your steady support of the Imagine capital campaign makes this building a possibility. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to making this facility a center for Christian ministry.

Why Give? A Reflection on Biblical Stewardship

At Faith Lutheran, we have a pretty well-established pattern of building up a big deficit during the year (despite spending less than is budgeted) that is overcome only by massive giving in November and December. Faith's leaders are profoundly grateful for those huge year-end offerings—to say the least! But this pattern always makes fall an anxious time, because if those year-end offerings ever fell short, the church would be in a world of hurt.

2015 is no different. As of this writing, Faith's general fund is over \$50,000 in the red (despite spending less than was budgeted). Due to reserves on hand and internal borrowing, the church has not yet had to borrow any money to pay its bills, but the deficit does need to be made up by year's end. All of Faith's members will need to give as generously as they are able between now and the end of the year to overcome it.

Beyond that, do you suppose Faith Lutheran could change this pattern in 2016? If we committed ourselves as a church to giving regularly in proportion to our income, there is every reason to believe that we would not face such an enormous deficit next year at this time. And how wonderful would it be to go through November and December without having to hear constant alarms about the church's perilous financial crisis? That is a goal worth pursuing!

Monthly Financial Update

	Actual YTD	Budget	Budget	2014-2015	
	9/16/2015	2015	Remaining	2014	Difference
General Fund Income	460,449.76	762,219.00	301,769.24	455,915.07	4,534.69
General Fund Expenses	511,372.82	762,219.00	250,846.18	487,275.01	24,097.81
General Fund Net Income/Loss	(50,923.06)			(31,359.94)	(19,563.12)

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

Nearly all the extra expense so far in 2015 fall into two categories:

	2015	2014	
Property	82,449.57	74,676.27	7,773.30
Personnel	345,835.44	331,526.88	14,308.56
			22,081.86

Thrivent Members - Thank you for your participation in the Thrivent Choice Program. As of September 16, 2015, your choice dollars for 2015 have amounted to \$6,200.00. In addition, \$250 Action Grants have been used for the Easter Breakfast, the April and June Community Meals, and the fall campfire. To designate your dollars for 2015, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice Dollars". Thank you for your support.

SENIOR'S SCENE

Fall is here. Leaves are turning. Corn and beans are drying in the fields, getting ready for harvest. And schools are in session. Schools, along with churches and businesses, are very important elements of a thriving and positive community. School buildings must be conducive to providing good educations for future citizens of our communities, states and countries.

You've likely been reading news about the needed updates and renovations of Hutchinson's school buildings, especially the high school.

We'll have opportunity to get a closer look and explanations from our superintendent, Mr. Daron Vanderheiden, at our **Seniors' Potluck meeting**. He will join us on **Thursday, October 25th, beginning at 12:00 noon**. So have your questions ready and come to have your interest tweaked. Maybe you've been discussing the matter with friends. Invite them to come along with you. Potluck is not limited to members of Faith Lutheran, and this subject is of concern to the entire community.

Here's some advance notice: at our November meeting (**Nov. 9th**), we will be packing some Operation Christmas Child boxes. Our steering committee decided to hold an activity type meeting. The "program" will be to assemble boxes, fill them, and get them ready to be shipped. It should be a fun time working together.

We will share information with you on how we can get ready for this Christmas box project at our October meeting. So come, and bring a friend!

SOMETHING SPECIAL COMING.....December 9 (Mark your calendar)

Jonathan Swenson is a Lutheran pastor, Program Director at Mount Carmel Ministries, family man (2 daughters), and professional actor. He has played lead roles in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie*, *Camelot* and many more. He loves Jesus and loves acting. He has put the two together in ways that bear clear witness to God's love through Jesus. His main productions are "*Witnesses*" and "*Celebrate the Son*."

Jonathan will be here in Hutchinson, at Faith Lutheran Church, on **Wednesday, December 9th**. (Mark that on your calendar right now). Our Seniors' Potluck group has changed their Thursday noon meeting to Wednesday noon to accommodate Jonathan's schedule. He will perform "*Celebrate the Son*," a Christmas drama, in the Faith Center. The drama includes 6 characters that surround the Christmas event in Bethlehem, and features a live baby and group singing of Christmas carols.

Jonathan will also bring his characters to our regular Advent service that evening, in the sanctuary. Following the service he will join the FLY youth to perform some of his "*Witnesses*" characters for youth to see and discuss with him. That will take place in the Foundation.

You may attend any or all of these productions. Non-Seniors may attend Potluck, and non-Youth may attend the FLY event. The public will also be invited.

Watch for more information in next month's Faith Matters. Be sure to reserve the date and times now. You will be inspired in your faith and witness.



Getting to know the Staff

Josiah Frusti (pronounced Froosti – like book) is our newest staff member at Faith Lutheran, working as the Director of Children and Family Ministry. Having a male in this position is exciting and new!

Josiah was born in Lansing, Michigan and even though he only lived there the first seven years of his life, he is STILL a Detroit Lions fan! (Have you seen the sign on his office door?) After leaving Michigan, his family moved often so he has lived in Indiana, Wisconsin, Texas, Missouri and New York.

After graduating High School, Josiah attended Concordia Wisconsin University in Mequon WI, majoring in Youth Ministry/World Missions. During college he met his wife, Brooke, at a volunteer lock-in he was doing for a church and married her a week after his college graduation! Together they enjoy the simple things in life – playing games, spending time with friends and playing with their two cats. They also love to watch football and root for their teams (Brooke is a Packers fan).

July 6th of this year was Josiah's first day of work here at Faith. He was looking on the LCMC (Lutheran Congregation's in Mission for Christ) website, as he had been looking for a position in his career field for over a year. He says, "I consider myself blessed to have been called here!" Besides his daily responsibilities of planning Sunday School, 56ers and Release Time, Josiah finds that spending time with people, getting to know the children and congregation he serves of the utmost importance!

What does he like best about his job? "I enjoy the freedom to sit, talk and build relationships with new people every day," he says. The hardest part, he thinks, is not always having the time to do that when life gets busy.

When I asked Josiah about his favorite Bible verse he had a hard time picking just one. He says his "favorite section of the Bible is from Luke 23:39-43 about the Thief on the Cross." To him, "no story points stronger to the power of forgiveness and salvation. Even when you could spend your whole life not knowing Christ, living in darkness or succumbing to your own desires – it only takes a few seconds for Jesus to welcome you into His Kingdom!" How awesome is that!

Help us keep you plugged in by updating your information . . .

- ⇒ If you are a snowbird please contact the office with address changes and dates that you will be away.
- ⇒ If you have cancelled your landline in the past year please let us know so we can update our records.
- ⇒ If you want to receive weekly or monthly newsletters by email please let us know your preferred email address.

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)
- * Scott Schwarze (Fort Huachua, AZ—son of Matt Schwarze)
- * SFC Guy Sing (Korea - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
- * Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth Air National Guard - son of Dave & Marian Skaar)



Remember our Faith members in Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers

Cedar Crest - Cosmos

Pat Fimon
Patricia Lambert

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Nadine Dalin

Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

Millie Blake
Valerie Fimon
Ruth Hackbarth
Dave & Betty Jensen
Clarence Kulberg
Joanne Olesen
Doris Strand
Otto Streseman
Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Prairie View - Hector

Jerome Lindquist

Westwood - Watertown

Eleanor Lack

Woodstone

Deloris Askew
Dorothy Christensen
Betty Garberich
Ruth McKay
Lucille Yukel

Faith Lutheran Church
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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

Fall Sunday Morning Schedule at Faith Lutheran Church

8:00 a.m. First Word Service in the Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation and Digging Deeper Classes

10:10 a.m. Simultaneous Sanctuary and Foundation Services

in action

Refugee Crisis: Opportunity to Share

If members wish to share funds to relief organizations that are addressing this humanitarian crisis of refugees coming primarily out of Syria into Europe, your Church in the World Team invites you to check out the following relief organizations: Samaritan's Purse, World Vision, and Lutheran World Relief. All of these organizations are involved in responding to this crisis.

COMMON CUP CORNER

CCM is collecting warm coats for distribution on **Thursday, October 15th** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the McLeod County Fairgrounds. Please drop off new or gently used coats in the Common Cup Corner.

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. The cost is approximately \$5.00 per child per week or \$1,000 each weekend during the school year. If you or a group you know would like to spend a few hours packing bags, or would like to donate food items call the CCM office, they would love to hear from you!

Provision of Personal Products or PoPP is a program started providing personal care products to students in grades 6-12. Please check out the display in the Common Cup Corners.

DONATIONS FOR ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND NEEDED AND CAN BE PLACED IN THE COMMON CUP CORNER AT ANY TIME.

Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9 am to 12 pm & 6-8 pm. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7.



Diaper Distribution: Occurs the **last Tuesday** of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CCM Office.
Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Fare for All distribution takes place at the CCM Office between **4:30 and 5:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, October 22nd**. Place an order by Friday, October 16, by calling the CCM office. Check out the signs in the Common Cup Corners for options available.

Ninth Annual Coming Together in Song Concert takes place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. on Sunday, November 22 at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Mark your calendars today.

ANNUAL MEATBALL SUPPER



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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

335 MAIN STREET SOUTH
HUTCHINSON, MN

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

4:00 – 7:00PM

MENU

MEATBALLS
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
CORN
COLESLAW/BUN
DESSERT

TICKET PRICES

ADULTS	10.00
SENIORS 62 & UP	9.50
CHILDREN 6-10	5.50
5 YRS. & UNDER	FREE