

Faith Matters

Pastors' Page

Fall

OCTOBER 2016



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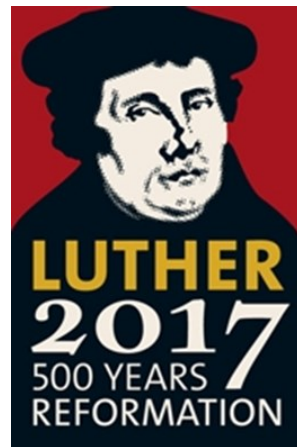


RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
KDUZ 1260 AM

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

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I'm excited about a lot of things these days.
I'm excited that the Holy Spirit is gathering his people to worship. Not only that, but we're seeing new people in worship-people who are excited to join our Faith family!
I'm excited about the energy surrounding our Children and Youth Ministries right now. FLY Night is packed, Sunday School is being well-attended, Confirmation is off to a great start, and kids and youth are learning about Jesus!
I'm excited about our leaders. We have a great council and we have active Ministry Teams, but we also have other leaders emerging! The Seniors' Task Force has planned another great year of Seniors' Potluck. The Sunday School Curriculum Team has written creative and age-appropriate curriculum for Sunday mornings. Our upper-class youth are embracing leadership roles within the youth group.
I'm excited that the Vikings are winning! That goes without saying. :)

There is a lot going on right now, and it is exciting to see! But I am also excited about something that happened almost 500 years ago. This October 31st marks the 499th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church in Germany, thus sparking the Reformation. On Sunday, October 30, we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday and kicking off a year-long emphasis of the Reformation that will culminate on next year's Reformation Day, which will mark the 500th anniversary.

Now, what does this mean for you and for the life of our church?

First of all, I hope you like the color **red**! The Reformation color will be prominently featured throughout the year!

Immerse yourself in the history! The life of Luther and the history of the Reformation are actually fascinating to take in. We hope to offer creative, thorough, and interesting historical learning opportunities for all ages throughout the year. *By the way, if you haven't reserved your tickets for the Luther Art exhibit trip on December 4th hurry before it's too late!*

Immerse yourself in the theology! More fascinating than the history is Luther and the Reformers' theology. Luther was an astounding thinker, and this theology has had a profound impact on how we do mission and ministry here at Faith. Dive into this great treasure!

(Continued on page 2)

Stump the pastor

Q: Why do the colors of the altar cloths change in the church? What do they mean?

A: For hundreds of years, worship services in the Western Christian Church were held in Latin, even though most people no longer spoke or even understood

it. The reason for that is a long story, but one consequence of it was that a lot of Christian teaching was done through visual symbols: stained glass windows, statues, morality plays and liturgical symbols. The colors of the paraments (cloths on the altar, pulpit and lectern) and the priest's vestments were one form of this visual teaching.

Most churches that use traditional liturgy use five colors: blue, white, red, purple and green. Some include scarlet (different from red), gold or black. The colors were assigned symbolic meanings long ago, although it is not entirely clear how those meanings were derived.

The colors change with the seasons of the church year. Right now, we are in "the long green season," the Sundays after Pentecost. From the Second Sunday after Pentecost (usually in June) to the Sunday before Christ the King (end of November), the color remains green, like the lush green plants that grow during this time. That is because this season focuses on growing in our faith and discipleship. The readings in worship come from Jesus' teaching and ministry.

The other half of the church year follows the course of Jesus' life: Advent prophesies his coming, long ago and on the Last Day. The color is blue, symbolizing hope. Christmas celebrates Jesus' birth and the color is white, which signifies purity and joy. Epiphany recounts events that revealed his divine identity as his ministry began. The color is green. Lent jumps ahead to Jesus' suffering and death, so the color is purple, which denotes suffering. Easter returns to white to celebrate his resurrection from the dead. The Day of Pentecost (not the whole season) uses red to denote the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Mixed into those seasons are many church festivals, which have their own color. Epiphany includes The Baptism of our Lord and The Transfiguration, when white replaces the usual green. Holy Trinity comes on the first Sunday after Pentecost and is also white. Reformation Sunday (on the last Sunday in October) uses red instead of the usual green. On Good Friday, either the paraments are black, to suggest mourning, or none are used at all.

In our highly literate culture, the liturgical colors may not be as important as they once were for helping to communicate the faith. They still, however, add richness, beauty and meaning to the weekly and annual rhythm of the church year.

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And remember: the church is always reforming! That is what is so amazing about the Reformation history and theology, it continues to shape our church today. And not only the church, but our lives as well! As we learn about the past we will examine how it shapes our present and future. Discover the relevance of Lutheran history and thought for your life!

Are you excited yet!? We're gonna paint the town **RED**! We're gonna paint the town LUTHERAN!

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

Faith-full Finances

Last December, Faith Lutheran received an astounding year-end offering. Nine months later, we are still living off that bounty. So far in 2016, offerings have fallen \$56,000 short of expenses, but the church has been able to keep its commitment not to borrow money to meet our ministry needs. If 2017 is going to proceed as smoothly, however, that general fund deficit will need to be made up by the end of the year. Your continued generous support of the ministry God is doing through Faith Lutheran is much needed and much, much appreciated!



Imagine Capital Campaign

In the six years that Faith has had a mortgage on the new building, we have made remarkable progress on the loan. One-third of the balance is already paid and the rest is being reduced on a much accelerated schedule. In doing that, the church has never once struggled to make a monthly payment. When extra principal payments have been made, the balance in the capital campaign account has not diminished, but grown back! Thank you for such generous, faithful support, which has allowed Faith to manage this debt so effectively.

Using an IRA for a Good Cause

DID YOU KNOW that you can put a traditional IRA (not a Roth) to work for your church or other charity? And that both you and the charity will benefit from it? Starting at age 70½, people must take what is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from each traditional IRA they own. These RMD's are taxable, but only if they increase one's income. They are not taxed if they are donated directly to a qualified charity, like Faith Lutheran Church. (All this assumes that the donor is not depending on the income from the RMD right now.) It is important to work with a financial planner to be fully informed about this process. For example, the RMD must go directly to the qualified charity for it not to be taxable. This is a great option for some people to support the church or other worthy causes. Congress has made this a permanent program, so these gifts can be made in any year.

Music Notes

Music Ministry Is in Good Hands



We were sorry to see Mike Lauer leave his position as our Director of Music and Worship. We wish him every blessing in his new position at Central Lutheran in Elk River, MN. Faith's Personnel Committee is in the process of seeking a replacement for Mike.

In the meantime, our music ministry is in very good hands. Our main worship accompanists, Ronda Eckhart, Shirley Holtz, Lara Liepold and Marc Vaillancourt, along with others who play with them or are willing substitutes, continue their faithful service.

In addition, Dave Skaar has stepped in to direct Faith Singers and Sue Graff is leading Ringers of Faith during this interim period. We are so grateful to all our gifted music leaders and to God for equipping them to help us "make a joyful noise to the Lord."

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES



OK, I know it's hard to think "Christmas" already. It just turned to "Fall," for goodness sake. Christmas includes snow in Minnesota and we don't want snow just yet, or never. But we are at that time when we need to think ahead and think about Christmas being about Jesus...His birth and life on earth, working out our salvation and our Christian life in Him.

Part of that reality is our need to be witnesses. As Christians we seek out every possible way to share the truth of God's love for broken humanity through Jesus.

One very simple way is **Operation Christmas Child** boxes. The "Special Report" I received with OCC program supplies has pictures and stories about how children, knowing they will receive a box of useful items, and some trinkets, opens their minds and hearts to hear about Jesus. The things you buy - toys, pencils and note pads, shirts, underwear, crayons, jump ropes - are tangible tools to create childlike interest in the God above Who dearly longs for them to know Him as God and Savior. Whether they live in Belize, Peru, Moldova, Africa, Malawi, Fiji, Nepal or Ecuador, **Operation Christmas Child** boxes can be powerful evangelism tools pointing to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Please...PLEASE...join in this effort. We'd like to "raise the bar" on the number of boxes we pack and ship. Can you help us? Sure you can.

Here's how:

Pick up a brochure from the church - they're all over the place for your convenience. They give complete information on items to purchase for packing, and for various ages. Please pack your boxes according to those instructions exactly.

If you don't wish to pack a box completely, you can bring regular size shoe boxes to the church office (please, NOT huge boxes or plastic containers).

You can bring articles to have others pack at our packing sessions. Be sure they will fit in regular size shoe boxes. Bring as much as you wish. We've never had too much.

You can help with shipping costs. It costs **\$ 7.00 per box** to ship abroad. **Make checks payable to "SAMARITAN'S PURSE,"** or bring cash to the church office.

We will have TWO group box-packing opportunities:

Your first opportunity is an intergenerational activity on **Wednesday, November 2nd, from 8:30-10:00 a.m.** This is a school "Late Start" date. Adults, Senior Citizens and students of any age can work together on assembling and packing boxes until the time is up or the items assembled on the tables are gone. It has always been an exciting time.

A second packing session is **Thursday, November 10th**, at Seniors' Potluck. Anyone can help at this session, Senior Citizen or not. You can join in the potluck dinner, or arrive at 1:00 p.m. for just packing boxes. Either way you are welcome to join in fun with a definite mission perspective.

If you are packing and dropping off your own boxes, note that the **DEADLINE is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH** (Boxes will picked up Nov. 14th or 15th.)

HEY.....don't just lay this aside!! Start planning. Whether extensive or limited, every contribution is important. You can bring a tubful, or a handful; everything counts. Please, let's join together for a superior effort and "over the top" results. **Thank you!!**



Seniors' Scene

We're on our way—with another season of Seniors' Potlucks. By the time you receive this Faith Matters, and quickly turned to "Seniors' Scene" as your favorite article we will have taken a brief trip to Norway, via Becky and Steve Gunderson's pictures and presentation. A hearty thanks to them, and to Becky's sister, Geri Johnson, for introducing them to us.

Our October meeting will be really different. We're calling it "**Hands On Missions.**" It is suggested by the fact that a lot of "mission" activity happens rather silently and behind the scenes; but it is vital and purposeful witness to our Lord Jesus. Who can estimate the value of a "pillow dress" for a young girl in a poor country somewhere across the world? Or who can understand the motivational value of a simple "sewing kit" placed in the hands of a woman who would not otherwise have such a practical item? Who can grasp how Jesus Himself comes into the hearts of children all around the world through "trinkets" packed in Operation Christmas Child boxes, assembled by Faith Lutheran children and adults. Old, disposable bed sheets turning into bandage rolls. All of them give very simple, but powerful witness to the Kingdom of God in action through faithful people. Add to that the faithful hands of those who make quilts and prayer shawls, and you can understand the multiple ways God's mercy and goodness permeates needy people at critical times in their earthly journey. God Himself works His wonders through sewing squares together and crochet needles bringing yarn together in beautiful patterns. Thank God for those hands and minds responding to God's call!

Our Potluck Steering Committee thought we should hear about these "**Hands On Missions.**" Come prepared to be a bit awed and grateful for what simple activities can provide for people in need in far places. Many of you are part of one or more of them. Thank you!

Speaking of Christmas boxes: We are moving forward on that activity again, along with people throughout the United States. For Faith Lutheran, it is another inter-generational effort. Josiah Frusti and Pastor Paulus are spearheading the project, with hopes we can top anything we have done before. Two packing opportunities, supported by funds from Thrivent, are available for you. On **Wednesday, November 2, from 8:30—10:00 a.m.** adults are invited to share box packing with school students. This is a "late start" day we're taking advantage of. On **Thursday, November 10th**, our Seniors' Potluck group will pack as many boxes as possible at our regular meeting, following dinner and devotions. Tables will be set up with articles you and others supply, and we can pick those we want in the box we pack. "This was fun!" was the comment heard most last year. Mission work can be fun and exciting!

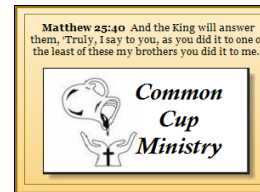
Deadline for all boxes is Sunday, November 13th. Boxes will be transported to the Good Samaritan warehouse on Nov. 14th or 15th.



Help Needed for the December Community Meal

Currently, no one has signed up to serve the free community meal on December 4. If your family, Bible study group, friends or neighbors are looking for a great service project to do together why not prepare and serve this meal? For details or to sign-up to serve, please call the office at 320-587-2093.

Thank you for helping with this outreach ministry!



Hutchinson

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Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2213

Website: www.common-cup.org

Glencoe

925 13th Street East
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-5511

Warm Coat distribution takes place on **Thursday, October 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the McLeod County Fairgrounds. Items most needed include children's coats (especially boys ages 8 to 10), youth snow pants, waterproof mittens, children's boots, and men's and women's coats 3X and larger.



Diaper Distribution: On the **last Tuesday** of each month from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parents can receive one bag of diapers per child. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.



See the Common Cup Corners at Faith for the monthly **Fare for All specials.** This month is chicken breast strips and Oscar Mayer Lean Beef Franks. Watch for the **Holiday packs** coming in **November** and **December.**

Fare for All Delivery
Thursday,
October 27
4:30-5:30

Community Meal @ FLC
Sunday,
October 2
4-6 p.m.

Immediate needs for Common Cup Ministry

We are in need of a minimum of **84 committed members** who would be willing to provide either a four pack of fruit cups or a six pack of applesauce each week during the school year. These food items will be placed with other food items into the backpacks of students in grades K-3 in McLeod County schools. The children that receive these bags are currently receiving free or reduced lunch. Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corner at either entrance. Cash donations are always welcome for this program.

50 committed members each week
Would provide the needed 200



34 committed members each week
would provide the needed 200



If you have any questions regarding any of our Common Cup Ministry programs, please feel free to contact our FLC Representative, Geri Johnson. She can be reached at 320-587-6733 or grjohn@mchsi.com.



Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) Notes:

- ~ Thank you to everyone who brought treats for the Extravaganza cake walk. Even though the event had to move indoors, the rain did not dampen the fun.
- ~ The Augustana District Women of the Word (WOW) Gathering at Christ the King was very inspirational and had about 90 women attending.
- ~ Fall kitchen cleaning has been scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Join us for a time of working together, conversation and, of course, coffee.
- ~ The annual FLCW meeting to disperse funds will be on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Take a few minutes after church that day to have a cup of coffee or cider and a treat. Help us decide how joyfully to use the money we have made this year for God's glory.
- ~ FLCW's next board meeting will be Monday, Nov. 14, at 4:30 p.m.



Breakfast and Bibles will be on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 8 a.m. in the Faith Center. This men's only group is slowly growing and is a great time to get to know other guys as you dig into the Word and enjoy some tasty breakfast goodies.



Mugs and Muffins is for the gals, and it will be on Saturday, Oct. 15, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. Bring a mug and bring a friend, we will do the rest!

Thoughts and Prayers

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

- Private 1st Class Colin Bos (North Caroline - Marines)
- 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 (Norfolk, VA - Navy - son of Lenny and Patti Rutledge)
- SFC Guy Sing (Korea - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
- Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth Air National Guard) son of Dave & Marian Skaar
- LTJG Brett Stadskev (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)
- 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

Nadine Dalin

Cokato Manor

Patricia Paulson

Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

Millie Blake

Valerie Fimon

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Harold Sanken

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Delores Saar

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Don Fitzgerald

Betty Garberich

Ruth McKay

Lucille Yukel

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