



Faith Matters

September 2015

Pastor's Page

Ever have a day like this? →

Sometimes we are just doing it wrong. Sometimes we just need a little direction, a little guidance, to get on the right track.

It's no different when it comes to our faith! Sometimes we need a little direction, some gentle reminders, and a lot of grace! It's not always easy being a Christian! The answer is not always clear when it comes to that classic Christian question, "How, then, shall we live?"

We have been exploring this question throughout the summer as we have studied the book of Ephesians together. The Apostle Paul urges us, who are in Christ, to remember who we are! Saved by grace through faith, we can then walk in a manner that reflects who we are in Christ!

This Fall at Faith, we want to get specific.

In Ephesians 6:10, Paul urges us, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." God equips us for the walk of faith to stand firm. He also provides us with direction for how this new life in Christ looks. This Fall at Faith, we want to talk about how the **armor of God** connects with **faith practices** in a new Fall series called:



Belt • Breastplate • Shoes • Shield • Helmet • Sword
Worship • Service • Witnessing • Giving • Prayer • Bible Study

You will see this theme in a lot of different places, but we will primarily explore it in these two ways:

Worship

Starting September 13th, our Sunday services will focus on the separate pieces of the armor of God and the faith practice attached to it. Not only will it be the theme of the sermons, but we will also have a bunch of creative twists and initiatives that will extend beyond worship!

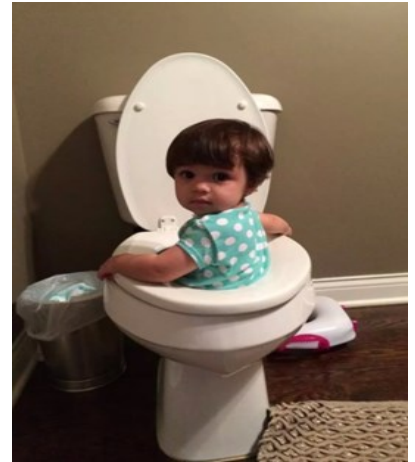
CROSS FIT Groups

Because we can't cover everything in worship, we'll extend the conversation into CROSS FIT small groups.

Our goal is 200 of our members in small groups, diving deeper into this theme and encouraging one another in faith! I hope you're a part of it!

Our theme verse is Ephesians 4:12, "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." It is our hope and prayer that through this series you might be equipped for God's call in your life, so that the church might be built up!

See you in Church!
Pastor Dave



Digging Deeper Fall Options

Special Challenges in 2015 for Those of Us Seeking to be Cross Fit:

For some it is enough simply to stay fit physically and spiritually for whatever comes our way. In this Digging Deeper option we will explore special opportunities and challenge as we seek to be fit for witness to Jesus Christ in this crazy mixed up world and time in which we live.

We will address questions like:

Are we in a battle, and if this is so, what is the character of that battle today?

What defensive and offensive strategies are essential?

What do we need from mentors, coaches, and more importantly from Jesus Christ?

How do we connect the personal and public nature of being cross fit?

The Spiritual Realms:

This Bible study series is a challenging one, in that it explores realities of existence beyond what we know and experience every day. The study not only addresses matters of life, death, heaven, and hell, it steadfastly affirms that Jesus Christ is at the center of all these things. Our ultimate faith and hope rest in Christ's death and resurrection for our sake. We live in faith by the biblical promise that: "God raised the Lord, and will also raise us up by his power" (I Corinthians 6:14).



Marriage Care

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - Love and Respect DVD study!

Whether or not you have seen it before, you will be enlightened and encouraged in this study by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. Highly recommended by past participants.



These classes along with Sunday School, Confirmation and Bible Studies will begin the week of September 13th.

Watch the bulletin for more information.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SEPT. 2

Intro to Quilting and Prayer Shawl Ministries

SEPT. 7

Labor Day - Offices Closed

SEPT. 9

Confirmation Parent Meeting

SEPT. 13

Fall Extravaganza
(Faith Ringers, Faith Singers, Bibles Studies start back up this week - watch for details in the bulletins)

SEPT. 15

Ministry Teams and Council Meetings

SEPT. 16

Confirmation Begins

SEPT. 19

Mugs & Muffins
WOW Conference

SEPT. 20

3 year old children receive Bibles, Sunday School, Digging Deeper and Confirmation all start

SEPT. 23

See Ya at the Pole
56ers Begin

SEPT. 27

2nd grade children receive Bibles

OCT. 6

Meatball Supper

OCT. 7

Bonfire/Sing-Along

music notes

Why Music in the Church?

This is a serious question that many people have asked. If someone were to question music in the church setting, on a whole, that would be biblically inaccurate. God calls us to worship with music. Now, the 'real' question that comes into play is "what kind of music?" This is an age old question that never ceases to stir up controversy. Several people have written books, articles, and even created "tests" to determine what is appropriate for music in the church. Author, Ed Stetzer, gives these quotes in his book *Perimeters of Light*:

"Get rid of that flute at church. Trash that trumpet, too. What do you think we are, pagans?"

200s: Instrumental music was almost universally shunned because of its association with debauchery and immorality. Lyre playing, for example, was associated with prostitution.

"Musical solos by ordinary people? I come to worship God, not man!"

600s: The monasteries, referencing "Seven times a day I praise you" (Ps. 119:164), developed a seven-times-daily order of prayer. The services varied in content, but included a certain amount of singing, mainly by a solo singer, with the congregation repeating a refrain at intervals. The services were linked together by their common basis in the biblical psalms in such a way that the whole cycle of 150 psalms was sung every week.

"How arrogant for musicians to think their new songs are better than what we've sung for generations."

900s: Music began to be widely notated for the first time, enabling choirs to sing from music. Thus new types of music could be created which would have been quite out of the reach of traditions where music was passed on by ear.

"It's too loud, and the music drowns out the words."

1400s: Music became increasingly complex (Gothic sounds for Gothic buildings), prompting criticisms that only the choir was allowed to sing. As reformer John Wycliffe had complained, "No one can hear the words, and all the others are dumb and watch them like fools."

"Now they're putting spiritual words to theater songs that everyone knows."

1500s: Martin Luther set about reforming public worship by freeing the mass from what he believed to be rigid forms. One way he did this was by putting stress on congregational singing. He used hymns and music already familiar to the majority of people in Germany.

"Our children will grow up confused, not respecting the Bible as an inspired book."

1700s: Isaac Watts gave a great boost to the controversial

idea of a congregation singing "man-made" hymns, which he created by freely paraphrasing Scripture. Charles Wesley paraphrased the Prayer Book, and versified Christian doctrine and experience. Wesley's songs were said to have had at least as great an influence as his sermons.

"These Christian radio quartets are on a slippery slope. Don't they realize that the airwaves are the domain of Satan, 'prince of the power of the air'?" (Eph. 2:2).

1900s: When radio was in its infancy, a handful of Christian pioneers such as Donald Grey Barnhouse and Charles E. Fuller began featuring gospel music and evangelistic teaching over the airwaves. Many Christians initially showed skepticism.

"Christian Rock is an oxymoron. The music of the world must not invade the church."

1970s: Larry Norman sang, "I want the people to know, That He saved my soul, But I still like to listen to the radio...They say that rock and roll is wrong...I know what's right, I know what's wrong and I don't confuse it: Why should the devil have all the good music...Cause Jesus is the Rock and He rolled my blues away." Christian rock is not the first controversial form of music in church. As confusing and impossible as this sounds, my definition of what is appropriate for music in church is simple, does the music invite you to worship without distraction? My view was inspired by Bach's. He himself said, "The aim and final reason of all music should be to glorify God and refresh the spirit." Now, I would argue secondly that it is not only the music's role to invite you to worship, but rather, the listener should be preparing their hearts for worship. So, the blame shouldn't just land on the music or musician, but everyone should be aware of what the atmosphere is and what it should be.

Now, why music if it causes so much controversy? Music is an art form that expresses, not represents. While other art forms can do both, music has an advantage that it easily and almost naturally expresses. When music is playing, it is expressing an emotion, not typically representing a physical scene. Even if it is attempting to represent a physical scene, often times it would be more accurate to say it is detailing a reaction to a scene. This is another topic that could be discussed at length, but in short: Music allows us to express our emotions, unaltered by the short comings of pictures and language. These emotions, understandings, etc... are what allow us to praise and honor God. Music then, allows us to express ourselves to God.

Music, in and of itself, is not sacramental. We do not receive Christ, in his true and prescribed form, through music. However, when you add the Word of God, there is this relationship that occurs allowing one to express God's word in a different emotional realm. This, however, is not to say that God's Word is better understood and heard through music, that would be blasphemy, but rather, the union allows us to experience God's Word in a different way; a way that has a biblical invitation. So, there should be no shame, fear, or regret in worshipping God or realizing God through music.

All best, Mike



SENIORS SCENE *“Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul”*

It's **POTLUCK TIME** again. My, how the summer sped through. A gorgeous summer, with picture perfect crops, blossoms and lawns for the most part. We hope the harvest is as good as it looks. God's bounty! How it lifts our spirits to see His gift of life and growth. All praise and thanks!

Yes, there were storms and destruction to remind us that He remains in control of His earth. I know we don't understand that fully; how “

...in everything God works for good, to those who love Him.” Sometimes we need simply to trust Him, not understand Him. God is good! Let all the earth praise Him!



POTLUCK DINNER

POTLUCK TIME! Our first 2015-2016 season meeting is **September 24th**. We are invited to take a tour to places like Sicily and Malta. So pack your bags and be ready to leave by **12:00 noon**. David and Marian Skaar are our tour leaders. They will take us no farther, physically speaking, than the Faith Center. But by travelog presentation they will guide us through many of the places St. Paul of the New Testament went on foot...*“Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul.”* This promises to be an interesting way to enhance our appreciation for God's work through the Biblical missionary, St. Paul. And more...interesting scenery and historic sites.

Actually, the only thing you'll have to “pack” is your dish to pass for the potluck dinner at noon. So put that on your calendar NOW. Get ready for a new season of fellowship, food and spiritual challenges. Our steering committee will meet soon and prepare another year of interesting programs. If you have some ideas for them please call us, or talk to us.

See you at **POTLUCK!!**

Faith + Augustana District = Innovation!

Faith Lutheran, with grants from the Augustana District, is launching two initiatives this Fall!

The Augustana District Youth Worker Retreat

Saturday, September 26, at Faith Lutheran

Pastor Dave and Pastoral Intern Steve Olcott from CTK are leading a one-day retreat for those who work with youth in a congregational setting around the theme “The DNA of Lutheran Youth Ministry.” The retreat aims to offer encouragement, enrichment, networking, and support for those in youth ministry. Thanks to the Spiritual Formation Team for helping to serve lunch!

“Prodigal: a night of worship for the recklessly extravagant”

Prodigal is a college worship tour that will target four college campus areas twice a year. This effort is spearheaded by Pastor Dave, Gladys, Mike, Josiah, and Mark Nissen, the Youth Director at CTK. Our aim is to encourage college youth in their faith, connect them to churches and ministries, and support them amid the challenges of college life. The tour will target the Twin Cities area, the Mankato/St Peter area, the St Cloud area, and the Fargo/Moorhead area.





Faith Lutheran Church Women News

Fall Extravaganza

Attention Cake Bakers: Locate your favorite sweet treat recipes for the Annual Cake Walk at the Sunday School Extravaganza on September 13. Bring Cakes, cupcakes, etc. to the church by 9 a.m.

Activities will start after the 10:10 services.

Let's add some sweetness to the day!

Augustana District Women Of the Word

Annual Convention will be held September 19 in Milbank, SD. Please go to the Augustana District website or stop in the office to register before September 1. There will be a group carpooling from Faith that morning. If you would like to ride along please contact Dorothy Desens at 320-587-8777.

Faith Lutheran 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study

This group has taken a break over the summer but will be resuming on Friday September 11. The topic "Psalms—Old Places, New Faces" is the topic. If you are interested in joining, contact Gladys Pilgrim at 320-234-9753.

Faith Prayer Shawl Ministry and Quilting Group

You are cordially invited to coffee and treats on Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30 a.m.

We will have finished quilts and shawls on display for you to check out.

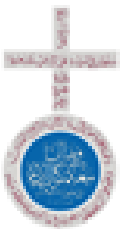
We have patterns, yarn and a large collection of crochet hooks and knitting needles in all sizes available FREE if you would like to give knitting or crocheting a try.

The Quilting Group appreciates donations of fabric pieces, used sheets and pillowcases, yarn and thread.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Mugs & Muffins

This month's gathering will be on September 19th at 9:30 a.m. and the guest speaker will be Geri Johnson. RSVP's appreciated for planning purposes.



Travel to India in January

Join Dorothy Desens in January and travel to India for two weeks.

You will be helping Dorothy with English As A Spoken Language in small discussion groups at Pastor K.K.'s Bible School or talking with school children at Otten School.

The entire cost of the trip will be about \$1,400. Call Dorothy for more information at: 587-8777.

Giving

Did the title make you want to stop right there thinking here we go, they want more money?

If you read the financial update below and see that we have a \$45,000 deficit at the end of July that would be understandable. Do we need your financial support? Of course we do, especially if we want to continue to maintain and hopefully grow the many wonderful ministries within your church. As stated in The Book of Malachi 3:10 "I am the Lord All-Powerful, and I challenge you to put me to the test. Bring the entire ten percent into the storehouse, so there will be food in my house. Then I will open the windows of heaven and flood you with blessing after blessing." To tithe means to give ten percent of your blessings. Keep in mind though that giving does not just mean monetary and it doesn't just mean the time you spend within the walls of your church. As we read in Romans 12:8, "If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." These are all gifts we can and should use each and every day in everything we do. God has blessed each of us with unique gifts of grace. What are yours and how is He asking you to use them? Remember, "It doesn't matter how much you have. What matters is how much you are willing to give from what you have". 2 Corinthians 8:12. So prayerfully consider what your ten percent tithe is. Is it monetary? Is it teaching Sunday school? Is it helping with funerals? Is it helping with the upkeep of the lawn or the building? Is it a combination of any of these or one of the other hundreds of opportunities available? What tithe is, is between you and God. Just know that we are extremely grateful when they are shared with your church.



Monthly Financial Update

	Actual YTD 8/21/2015	Budget 2015	Budget Remaining
General Fund Income	414,760.06	762,219.00	347,458.94
General Fund Expenses	459,317.99	762,219.00	302,901.01
General Fund Net Income/Loss	(44,557.93)		
Average weekly giving needed to reach budget		\$14,658.06	
Average monthly giving needed to reach budget		\$63,518.25	

Stump
the pastor

Q. What about re-baptism?

A: It's happened a couple of times. Someone will go off to college and then excitedly get a hold of me to tell me the big news: they were re-baptized! The news is always delivered with the expectation that I would be excited, thankful, and even relieved. It was a sign of their commitment, the authenticity of their faith, that they were finally owning their faith in Jesus.

It makes me want to smack my head on my desk!

Am I overreacting? Maybe, but let me explain. It goes right to the center of our understanding of baptism (and faith in general). Who is doing the work? Is baptism a work that we are doing to validate faith or is it a work that God is doing to give faith? As Lutherans, we believe the latter. God is at work in baptism! It's not about us having finally figured it out and declaring to the world that we are now righteous. Instead, it's about God, coming to a clueless and lost sinner, and, in the words of the Small Catechism, baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this."

To go even further, to be re-baptized is just further indication of our sinful nature. It is consistent with our desire to have control, to make it about us, to point to our self-righteousness. Baptism becomes a work that we do to try and justify ourselves. So, in a sense, the pastoral response to someone who boasts about re-baptism is absolution! "You don't believe God's work in your first baptism was valid, that you had to add to it? I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins, in Jesus' name!"

The reason we can bank on our baptism, and cling to it, is that it comes from God and we can take God at his word. Don't try to add to it. ***Instead, believe it, cling to it, and live in it!***

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)



Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

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Remember our Faith
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Homes & Health Care
Centers

Birchwood

Doris Strand

Cedar Crest - Cosmos

Patricia Lambert

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Nadine Dalin

Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

Millie Blake

Valerie Fimon

Ruth Hackbarth

Clarence Kulberg

Joanne Olesen

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Dorothy Christensen

Betty Garberich

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:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED