

Faith Matters

Pastors' Page SEPTEMBER 2016

It is pretty much a law of nature that Minnesota summers pass by way too quickly. The disappointment of this summer drawing to a close, however, is more than balanced by the excitement of the fall schedule and all the ministries that begin or resume at this time of year.

Our regular worship schedule returns on **September 11**, with the **First Word** service at **8:00 a.m.**, and the **Sanctuary** and **Foundation** services running simultaneously at **10:10 a.m.** Other opportunities and events that will begin soon are sprinkled throughout this issue of *Faith Matters*. I want to highlight two of them here.

Our theme this fall is **LOST: Lost in Ourselves, Found in Christ**. It will be integrated into many areas of Faith's ministry, including a **Faith Groups** small-group study. These groups will meet weekly for seven weeks in September and October, discussing Bible texts and reflections by Pastor Dave and me. Each participant will receive a booklet with devotions, discussion questions and other resources. Whether you have participated in a Faith Group before or not, I strongly encourage you to join one this fall. At least 15 groups will meet at various times during the week, so there should be one to fit every schedule. There will be many opportunities for you to join a group in the coming weeks.

Sunday School kicks off with the **Extravaganza** at Library Square, right after worship on **August 28**, and **classes begin** on **September 11**. Josiah Frusti and a group of experienced Sunday School teachers are writing a new curriculum that will be used this year. If you know children who are not attending Sunday School, encourage them to come to Faith to learn about the love of Jesus. Encourage families to attend worship services together so they can all grow in grace and knowledge of the good news of Jesus Christ.

There are so many other ways to learn, serve and share in the work God is doing in and through Faith Lutheran: Bible studies, confirmation guides or mentors, vocal and bell choirs, Befrienders, serving in worship roles, FLYouth, nursery attendants, 56'ers, men's and women's ministries, and so many more. There is a place for everyone to grow and serve as an outgrowth of weekly worship.

If you have questions about any items in this newsletter or any other aspect of Faith's ministry, call the church, send us a text or e-mail, or stop by the church. We would love to help you find your spot in this great adventure in ministry called Faith Lutheran Church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott



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We are on the
Web:
Faithlc.com



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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Stump the pastor

Q: Why are there so many different Lutheran churches? What are the differences among them?

A: There are basically two reasons why not only the Christian Church as a whole, but even the Lutheran family of Christians has split into many different groups.

One is that the Reformation located the unity of the Church in a different place.

Before Martin Luther, the unity of the Church was centered in the office of the Pope and the hierarchy of clergy (archbishops, bishops, priests). It made room for many different theological beliefs, as long as people acknowledged the Pope's authority. But Luther was convinced that much of what the Church taught in his day was unbiblical and simply wrong. His work moved the basis of Church unity to what was believed and taught about God in Christ, rather than any human office or structure. He believed—naively, as it turned out—that the truth of the Gospel was self-evident, that if people only read the Bible, it would be crystal clear. Instead, even Luther's followers began to disagree on which teachings were right, and Lutherans have been plagued—or enlivened!—by vigorous theological disagreement ever since. That has led to the founding of new Lutheran church bodies, especially in America, and even in the last few years.

The other reason for so many Lutheran churches is ethnic. As the Reformation spread through northern Europe, the churches mostly came under state control as a replacement for papal authority. Starting in the 18th-century, as members of those state churches immigrated to America, they formed church bodies that reflected the language and customs of their home countries.

Most Lutheran church bodies in America can be traced back to ethnic communities of immigrants. As ties to European ancestry diminished, many of those small, ethnic churches merged into larger denominations, which made sense and was helpful, up to a point. But more recent mergers tended to paper over that other reason for our divisions—genuine theological disagreement—and so various new Lutheran church bodies have split off and been founded in recent years.

These rifts among Lutherans are a cause for commitment and humility. They remind us that the truth of the Gospel is of primary importance and cannot be compromised. But they also call us to careful discernment of which theological disagreements are important enough to warrant such rifts in the Body of Christ, as well as self-examination and repentance so that personal agendas or lesser motives do not masquerade as church-defining issues.

In the end, however, our unity is in Christ, not in our theological purity or ethnicity. Whatever struggles or divisions we face now apply only in this sinful world, as we long for that great day when Christ has triumphed over all his enemies and we are joined with “every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”” (Revelation 5:13)



Reformation Celebration ~ October 30, 2016 - October 29, 2017

As a part of this celebration an exciting event coming up will be a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art on **Sunday, December 4 at 3 p.m.**, to explore a rare exhibit featuring numerous artifacts and pieces from Germany depicting the life of Martin Luther. Space is limited so sign-up early. Discounted tickets are available thanks to Thrivent. Tickets are \$10 each for the exhibit or \$15 including bus transportation. If all of the tickets are not sold by Sept. 25 they will be offered to other congregations who may be interested in this unique opportunity. Tickets must be paid for at the time of registration. For information or to register, please contact Wendy Mayland at wendym@faithlc.com or call 320-587-2093.

Faith-full Finances

A favorite sight in worship is when children eagerly grab the offering envelope from their parents so they can put it in the offering plate. It is a simple way for them to be active during the service, but we should not underestimate what they are learning along the way. Their parents are modeling for them what it means to trust God to provide for us and to share generously what He provides for us. When children begin to receive gifts of their own or get their first jobs, the foundation has been laid for them to offer their own money to God's work and to begin a life of faithful stewardship.

Parking Lot Progress

The first of three phases of work on the parking lot—cleaning and filling cracks—has been completed. The other two phases—re-paving the north end and sealing the new section—will occur as contractors have time. (Torrential rains have not been kind to contractors' schedules!)

As of this writing, Faith has received \$14,079 in special gifts toward the goal of \$22,400. Thanks to all who have made these gifts. If you are still able to help reach this goal, simply mark any envelope or your check with "Parking Lot."

Fall Bible Studies

Crossways classes resume in September. *Crossways* is a "big picture" study of the whole Bible. It gives an overview of each book within a framework for seeing the Bible's "big story." It combines Bible reading, commentary and illustrations to show how the Bible fits together. If you want to know your Bible better, *Crossways* is for you! Sign up for the new class at church or talk to Pastor Scott.

Crossways classes meet for 20 weeks each year for 3 years.

Year 1—A NEW class will begin on **Thursday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m.**

Year 2 will resume on Sunday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m.

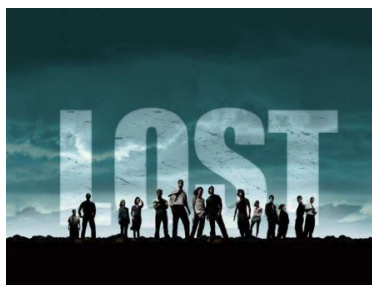
Year 3 will resume on Monday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Luther the Revolutionary: The Three Great Treatises of 1520. In 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be celebrated, because in 1517 Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. In many ways, though, 1520 was more significant, because Luther wrote three great treatises that were revolutionary in that day: To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church and The Freedom of a Christian. This class will meet in the Faith Center on Monday mornings from 10:30-12 beginning on September 12.



LOST: Lost in Ourselves, Found in Christ.

We encourage you to sign-up to be a part of a **Faith Group** this Fall. The seven-week theme - LOST - starts with the sermon on September 11th and the Faith Groups start meeting during the week following.



Look for the sign-up board around the church and add your name or contact Marsha for more information. There are a variety of days and times available to plug into. Join us!

Faith Lutheran Church Women Notes:



If you are reading this before Aug. 28 it is not to late, you can still donate a sweet treat to the Extravaganza cake walk. The cake walk can only last as long as there are treats to win so the more goodies we have the longer the kids (and grown-ups) can play. If you are reading this after the Extravaganza THANK YOU to everyone who donated treats!

We also want to thank those of you who donated treats for the treat table at Library Square for the August 7 outdoor service.

The FLCW board met and voted to donate \$2,000 from their fundraising proceeds to the parking lot project. The board will meet next on Monday, Sept. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

Planning for next year . . . Do you have any perennials that need to be broken apart or divided? If so, save them until next spring. The FLCW Rummage Sale is expanding and plans to have a garden section next year. So save those extra plants and bring them in next spring. Contact Roberta Yukel with any questions at 587-6619.

Mugs and Muffins Returns

After a summer break this popular women's ministry is returning on Saturday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be our Director of Youth & Family Ministry, Gladys Bonnema. Make plans today to stop in and listen to the story of how Gladys came to Faith.



MEN'S GROUP

Have you thought about going to Breakfast and Bibles? If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, how about coming in this month to join a great group of guys as we discuss various men in the Bible and how their lives relate to ours - TODAY? We're learning about ourselves, having fun, and getting to know each other. . .and don't forget, breakfast with no decorations. Bring your Bible and see YOU on Saturday, September 10!

Breakfast and Bibles

Hey, Guys!

What are you doing Saturday, September 10 from 8 - 9 a.m.?

Inviting Prayers for Dr. Abdul Messiah

Abdul, son of K.K. Alavi, recently began intensive course work in residence at the Institute of Lutheran Theology. Abdul, who offers his father major administrative leadership of all the work of witness to Muslims in India that is supported by the New Hope Mission Society, is preparing theologically so that, in time, he will have the central role of this mission witness.

ILT is offering Abdul both a tuition scholarship along with housing provided through one of their professors. New Hope Mission Society with Faith Lutheran Church is helping with personal expenses, and Dr. Christoph who is a partner from Germany covered his air travel.

Pray that Abdul, separated from his family and taking a heavy course load, will have the strength to persevere in this vital training for his future long-term leadership. Pray that his telling of the story of their mission in weekend presentations to congregations will be blessed.



Digging Deeper Fall Options Beginning Sept. 11 @ 9:10 a.m.

“Anxious Christianity: Ten practical things you DON’T have to do”

A succession of failed diet regimens, the much-touted techniques that are supposed to bring us closer to God “in our hearts” can instead make us feel anxious, frustrated, and over-whelmed. This class will dispel some of those over-simplified, and unbiblical, techniques. You don’t have to “hear God’s voice in your heart” or have it go “from your head to your heart.” Instead, be reminded of the good news and the peace of God. This group will be meeting on the 3rd floor in the large multi-purpose room.

The Temptation of Glory: The Sad Truth about King Solomon

Solomon is know as Israel's wisest and most glorious king. In the end, however, he became a cautionary tale of the dangers of wealth and power. Learn what Solomon can teach us about temptation and faithfulness. This group will meet in the Faith Center.



MARRIAGE CARE: Love and Respect

This DVD series features Dr. Emerson Eggerichs and addresses the differences in communication between men and women using a simple message and plenty of humor! This session will be meeting in the 3rd floor conference room.



Along with all of these great adult Bible studies and classes, Sunday School and Sunday morning Confirmation will also begin on September 11. If you have not signed your student up for Sunday School yet please go to the website FaithLC.com or stop by the office to get a registration form. Forms will also be available at the Extravaganza on August 28. *(Special note - during Faith Seeds children will once again be able to collect something special to take home each week that will coincide with the fall LOST theme.)*

Parents of Confirmation students - you should have received a packet of information in the mail and an invitation to come to a parent meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 5:30 p.m. If you did not receive this info please contact Gladys at 320-587-2093.

Music Notes

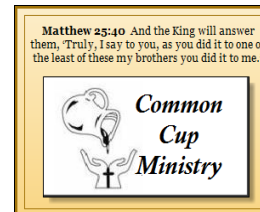
from Mike Lauer, Director of Music and Worship



In three weeks Faith Singers will start again! September 7th, at 6:00 p.m. in the music room will be our first rehearsal. For those of you veterans, you know the drill, but if you’re interested in joining and have questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience. The following Monday, the 12th, the Ringers of Faith will begin their rehearsals as well. This group meets at 5:30 p.m. in the music room. This is a wonderful ensemble which allows those who ‘claim to not sing’ to still be a part of the music ministry here at church. Please prayerfully consider joining an ensemble for 2016 - 2017.

Come September, Compline will be back on its regular schedule with the service to start at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. If you’ve never been, the service tends to sound like a contemplative, rock worship service. We try not to be too loud!

~*Music Notes Continued on Page 6*



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Glencoe

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320-864-5511

Website: www.common-cup.org

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**. FLC has chosen to collect the **fruit and applesauce cups** provided each week (**200 of each**). Please prayerfully consider adding these items to your weekly shopping list. Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corner. Groups to pack the bags are always needed and it can be done at your convenience.



Warm Coat distribution takes place on **Thursday, October 20th 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.



Community Meal @ FLC

Sunday,
September 11
4-6 p.m.

Fare for All Delivery

Thursday,
September 29
4:30-5:30

~ **Music Notes Continued:** I want to send out the first of many thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make the summer worship possible. Whether leading worship, setting up, or tearing down, every part matters and we couldn’t do it without YOU!

It is sad to see our seniors go off to college, we’ve had some wonderful leaders musically with Josiah Wollan, Mickey Nielsen, and Hudson Meiers. I know they’ll do great things in their next stages of life. Their leaving brings in a new crew of young musical leaders. Keep them in your prayers as they help lead our group on Wednesday nights. As always, if you have any questions regarding ensembles, lessons, or special music, please call or email me.

SENIORS’ SCENE

Can you believe it? Summer is on the way out; or gone already by the time you receive this. As always, it seems it just began. But here we are planning for another year of Seniors Potluck meetings and programs. Besides that our school is beginning earlier than usual, due to the public school building construction beginning in the near future. “Extravaganza” Sunday, which kicks off the program year for Sunday School, confirmation classes etc. is August 28th. Please pray for a good year, filled with in depth faith learning for young and old. Seniors, by the way, have a place for learning on Sunday mornings. “Digging Deeper” keeps adding new topics for us to broaden our understands of God and our relationship to Him. We Seniors could do better in attendance. I hope to see more of you there. Breakfast at local cafes will still be waiting for you after you “feed” on God’s Word first. I’m told it even tastes better after being at Digging Deeper first.

As for Seniors Potluck---your steering committee: LoAnn Hanson, Helen Kieper, Jean Schlueter and Dick Desens would like to know what programs would interest you. We’ll be meeting soon. Talk to them when you see them; or call them.

We have our September program set up. You Norwegians will love this; Germans, etc. too. Geri Johnson’s sister, Becky, with husband Steve Gunderson will take us on a trip to Norway. They’re special interest was to seek out the Karlstad (Becky and Geri’s maiden name) farm, not far from Hamar, Norway. Following that they boarded the Ms. Vesteralen (a ship) for 12 days of travel on water, stopping at 34 ports on the way.

We are grateful to Steve and Becky Gunderson coming from Portland, North Dakota, to entertain us on **Thursday, September 29th**, with potluck dinner beginning at 12:00 noon, as usual. Thanks, also, to Geri, who informed us of this special opportunity. I sure hope you can join us!

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

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