

Faith Matters August 2014

Pastor's Page

"Imagine there's no heaven. It's easy if you try,"

At least, that was former Beatle John Lennon's opinion in his famous 1971 song, "Imagine." But Lennon was not the only one to urge imagination. Everyone from automobile dealers to perfume manufacturers to soft-drink makers are urging you to consider your future featuring a life enhanced by their product. "Just Imagine..."

Now just think- just IMAGINE- your future enhanced by what God's got in store for you, And IMAGINE what God's got in store for this church!

With our 150th anniversary approaching in 2020, with an energetic young staff, with new members not only joining but jumping right in, with the new Lutheran landscape, and with all of the challenges we face in our current culture...

IMAGINE!

IMAGINE bold new callings and initiatives for our church!

IMAGINE stronger community and faithful outreach!

IMAGINE Faith growing spiritually, numerically, and physically!

This Fall at Faith we are going to IMAGINE together. Our new Sunday morning theme will extend beyond worship to Digging Deeper options, FLY Night lessons, senior's and children's programming, and even the new Capital Campaign. God has been faithful to our church for almost 150 years! It's time to start IMAGINING (and listening, and discerning) what He is calling us to do in response to the current state of the church and world.

So, come! IMAGINE with us!

IMAGINE what Faith can do, and IMAGINE that you're a part of it!

It's easy if you try.

See you in church,
Pastor Dave



First Sunday of the Month
7:00pm @ Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main St. S. in Hutchinson

A monthly worship experience at Faith.
Music Driven. Candlelit. Jesus Centered.
Come as you are. We'll provide the music.

Visit FaithLC.com/Compline for full details.



Faith Lutheran's Fall **Extravaganza!** Sunday, September 7

8:00 am Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School Open House / Parent Orientation and NEW Digging Deeper Options

10:10 Sanctuary and Foundation Worship Services

11:00 am—1:00 pm Fall Extravaganza

Games ~ Popcorn ~ Pizza ~ Bouncy Castle ~ and More

Giving = Mission

giving joyfully, growing ministry

Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward

Faith Lutheran's current capital campaign, *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* concludes at the end of this year. Faithful support from Faith's members has allowed the church to meet its monthly mortgage payment on the new building and also make significant reductions in the principal amount of the loan. The building itself has been a wonderful tool for ministry and every square inch is often in use.

Plans for a new three-year campaign are already underway, but we still have four months to finish *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* on a strong note. If you are able to complete your pledge by year's end or if God has blessed you to give a gift beyond your pledge, it would—in combination with funds from the new campaign—further accelerate the reduction of the principal. **THANK YOU** to all of you who have given generously and faithfully to *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward*!

SENIORS SCENE

"When does Seniors Potluck start up again?"

It's fun to hear those questions! Lots of folks are looking forward to the food, the fellowship, the devotions, the programs and the humor. Glad to say---it's coming soon. By the time you receive this Faith Matters it will be less than a month before our first meeting. Mark **Thursday, September 25th** on your calendar. We have a program ready for you.

Karen and Butch Olson are members of Christ the King Lutheran Church here in Hutchinson. They have been very active in a variety of mission projects, including packing and repacking the Operation Christmas Child Christmas shoe boxes at the distribution center in the Twin Cities. Karen can give us the "inside scoop" on those boxes which we have dutifully assembled and sent for quite a few years now as an intergenerational project. But this is only one of the mission projects Karen has supported in vital ways. Come hear more on September 25th.

We'll meet at 12:00 noon, as usual, with a potluck dinner featuring the delectable foods you always bring (no calories allowed). Bring a friend with you, especially someone new who hasn't yet experienced our joyful fellowship---member of FLC or not.. Tell us who you brought if it's someone new, so they can be first in the food line (led by you, of course). Our steering committee will try to have our entire program year set by then, printed and ready for you to put in a prominent place in your home.

On another note...our Seniors Task Force is working hard on a visitation program. Our goal is to supplement and expand our Befrienders visitors as they bring our Lord's spirit of hope and love to needy members, especially those who can't get around as they used to, or who are facing a crisis of one kind or another. Watch for further announcements and information as this mission takes shape.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SUN. SEPT. 7

Digging Deeper

Extravaganza

Sunday School Parent Orientation

Outreach Meal

Compline

MON. SEPT. 8

Theology in Story

WED. SEPT. 10

Confirmation Starts

WED. SEPT. 17

First Day of 56er's

MON. SEPT. 22

New Crossways Class

WED. SEPT. 24

See You at the Pole

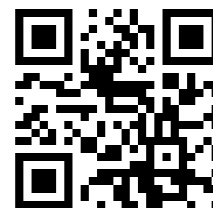
THURS. SEPT. 25

Senior Potluck

TUES. OCT. 7

Meatball Supper

Follow this QR code with your mobile device for a simple way to give to Faith Lutheran. Or visit www.faithlc.com/giving-made-easy/



Always Wanted to Know More about the Bible?

Here's your chance! Join in on one of these Bible studies offered at Faith this fall:

Lectionary Bible Study

Prepare for next Sunday's worship by studying the Bible texts with the pastor who will be preaching. Every Tuesday, all year, noon-1 pm in the church office conference room.

Thursday 6:30 am Men's Bible / Book Study

No catchy name for this group. Just Christian men enjoying coffee, conversation and fellowship. All men are welcome to join! Every Thursday, all year.

Friday 6:30 am Women's Bible Study

Join them as they focus on the claims Christ made about Himself in scripture and how God has made us part of His mission to the world through the study "One For All". Questions please call Gladys Pilgrim @ 234-9753.

Theology in Story

A study of Old Testament narratives such as Samson, Ruth, Jonah and David, will take place on Mondays mornings, from 10:30 to noon, starting on September 8. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring your Bible, a writing instrument and an inquiring mind. Everything else is provided—including coffee!

Crossways

A "big picture" study of the whole Bible. It does not explore each book in depth, but provides a framework for understanding the Bible's 'big story.' It combines Bible reading, commentary and illustrations to show how the Bible fits together. If you want to understand the Bible better, *Crossways* is for you.

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

Year 1 NEW class beginning Monday, September 22, 6:30 p.m.

Please call the church or sign up to register and order materials.

Year 2 will resume on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Year 3 will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Have a question about these Bible studies, or other ways to get involved at Faith Lutheran?

Call the church 320-587-2093 or get in touch via our website www.FaithLC.com.

FLCW Thank You's

Thank you to all who helped clean the church on Wednesday, August 20th. After a busy summer, we have it sparkling again.

Thanks so much to those who displayed their gardens and farms, attended or worked at the Garden Tour/Salad Luncheon on July 12th. In spite of the light rain, we had many wonderful comments. \$669.00 was our profit of which 30% goes toward the mortgage principal. The rest will be used for ministry projects.

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Getting to know the Staff - Wendy Toops

Did you know that Wendy Toops, our Director of Children's and Family Ministry, grew up in New London, MN and lived in the same house the whole time? Wendy grew up with four siblings, all of which are older and three are fraternal triplets. Sounds like her parents, George and Kim, had their hands full!

After high school Wendy attended Minnesota State University in Moorhead where she double majored in Health Education and Physical Education and minored in Coaching. She also earned a certificate in Developmental Adaptive Physical Education. She was hired for her position at Faith in March of this year after working at Delta Airlines in Minneapolis. During her summers in college, she worked with Youthworks! as a Kids' Club Coordinator and then a Site Director both in Wanblee, SD.

Wendy enjoys sewing, knitting, crocheting and other fun crafts and naturally loves kids! What she likes best about her position at Faith is planning lessons and personally teaching the children! What is the hardest part? She says, "Right now the hardest part of my job is planning for the fall and making sure we have all of the materials

needed to successfully accomplish our upcoming ministries."

Matthew 6:10-21 are her favorite Bible verses: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Wendy's heart is in the right place, and we're happy to have her on staff and enjoy watching her work with the kids who love her!

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

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Wendy Toops , Director of Children & Family Ministry	wendyt@faithlc.com
Wendy Mayland , Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com

stump the pastor

Q: *How can we believe in a good and loving God when there is so much suffering in the world, especially by innocent bystanders?*

A: This heart-wrenching question disturbs skeptics and struggling believers alike, and there is no easy answer to it. The unsettling assumption that often lies behind it is that God is either able to end suffering, but is not loving enough to do so, or that God loves us enough to end suffering but is powerless to defeat evil. Given how much suffering afflicts the world, it seems logically impossible that God is both all-powerful and all-loving.

That assumption changes, however, in light of the cross and empty tomb. Jesus' death at the hands of sinners shows how deep sin lies in human hearts. If God were simply to destroy evil (the root cause of suffering), it would mean destroying all of us, too, but after the Great Flood, God promised never to do that again. (Gen. 9:11) God is determined to *save* the world from evil, not just *purge* it of evil.

So God took on Himself the absolute depths of human suffering. God does not stand idly by, uncaring or helpless, as people suffer. Rather, Jesus' anguished cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34) declares that God knows their agony, suffers with them, and sends the Holy Spirit to sustain and comfort them.

Even more, though, Jesus' resurrection proves that even the worst evil is no match for God's power. Easter assured the ultimate destruction of Satan and all his forces. Like a defeated army

the ultimate destruction of Satan and all his forces. Like a defeated army destroying all it can as it retreats, Satan and his allies continue to cause immense suffering until God's plan of salvation is complete, hoping—above all else—to destroy people's faith in God. But they can no longer win the war. Christ is Lord! His Easter victory cannot be overcome.

Jesus reveals that God is all-loving and all-powerful, but in a complex, gracious way that does not fit strict, logical categories. Jesus himself said when he was arrested, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" (Matt. 26:33-34) Rather than intervene to rescue Jesus from suffering, God "made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (II Cor. 5:21)

In the same way, rather than freeing the world from suffering at the cost of destroying sinners, God is at work to defeat evil by redeeming sinners through the suffering and death of Jesus. It is not neat, clean or logical, but it is astoundingly good news—a message of hope that can break into and transform even the deepest suffering.

Share Your Talents!

We are looking for musicians to share their talents with us for regular or special worship services. Faith's music ensembles will begin the second week of September with Ringers of Faith Mondays @ 5:30 pm and Faith Singers Wednesdays @ 6 pm.. Do you play an instrument or sing? If you have a musical talent to share? Contact Mike Lauer at mikel@faithlc.com

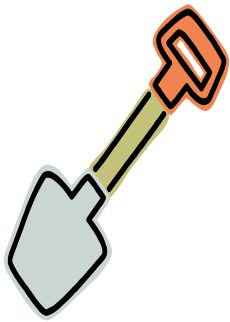


Annual Meatball Supper Faith Lutheran Church

335 Main Street South, Hutchinson, MN

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

**Watch the Bulletins for more
Information.**



Digging Deeper

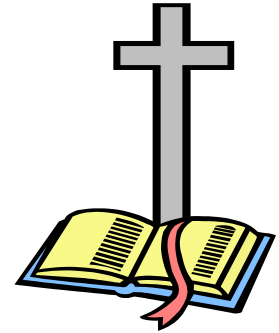
September 7—October 12

Join in one of these
Adult Learning / Discussion

opportunities to

Dig Deeper

Into the Christian Faith and Life.



Option 1—IMAGINE

This is our theme for this fall, as we consider new possibilities for ministry that God may be presenting to Faith Lutheran Church. Join the conversation in the Faith Center to *Imagine* together the future God has in store for us.

Option 2 - The Book that Made Your World

Discussion based on a book written by Vishal Mangalwadi, a Christian from India. He considers the enormous influence of the Bible on Western civilization from an outsider's perspective and shows that the values and morals we Westerners assume are "normal" are not shared in other parts of the world, while we can too easily take them for granted. This discussion group will meet in the Sanctuary.

Option 3—Marriage Care

A discussion group that helps couples who are married or planning to marry to understand each other better and strengthen their commitment to one another. Location TBD.

Lost something and don't know where to look?

Our Lost and Found Box is getting a bit full.

Stop by during Extravaganza and see if you recognize anything.



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)

Colten Hughes (Fort Carson, CO - son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)

Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC - son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)

SGT Tyler Lauer (Australia - son of Brian & Cyndi Lauer)

Justin Olsen (Behring, Kuwait - son of Sharon Grivna and Jerry Olsen)

SFC Guy Sing (Korea - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)

Scott Schwarze (Fort Sill, OK - son of Matt Schwarze and Barb Schwarze)

Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth, MN - son of Dave & Marian Skaar)

How can you be the Hands and Feet of Jesus today?

Donations for Newborn Kits

These kits will be sent to India, Africa, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea. They are sent through Global Health Ministries.

Items Needed:

- * 48 Regular size bath towels (may be gently used)
- * 11 Newborn Shirts
- * 33 Wash Cloths
- * 47 Bath sized white Ivory soap
- * 50 2 or 2 1/2 gallon Ziploc plastic bags
- * 4 Newborn Stocking Caps

Place donated items in the office by Sept. 14

Questions contact Dorothy Desens 587-8777



Calling on all cake bakers to locate your best recipes for the FLCW annual cake walk at the Sunday School Extravaganza on Sunday, September 7th. Bring your cakes or cupcakes to the church by 9 a.m. Stay after church to witness the excitement.



Remember our Faith members in Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers

Dassel Lakeside

Dorothy Getz

Harmony River

Valerie Fimon

Charles Kisling

Clarence Kulberg

Joanne Olesen

Earl Peterson

Agnes Rettman

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Sleepy Eye

Babette Marks

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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