

Faith Matters

MARCH 2017

Pastors' Page



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We are on the
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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.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Stump the Pastor | 2 |
| Senior's Scene | 4 |
| CCM and Thrivent | 5 |
| Missions | 7 |
| Prayers and Staff Directory | 9 |
| Lots of other exciting news in between. | Check it all out! |
| FLYouth | Insert |
| Faith Kids | Insert |
| Calendar | Insert |

In I Corinthians 2:3, St. Paul described his ministry in the Corinthian church by saying, "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." At the end of the same letter, Paul drove home the reality of the resurrection by declaring, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile...and we are of all people most to be pitied. But, in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead." (I Corinthians 15:17-20)

Those "bookends" around I Corinthians point to the great mystery that drives our Christian faith. I was once asked whether Jesus' crucifixion or his resurrection was more important, but Paul makes it clear that the two cannot be separated. Without the resurrection, Jesus' death on the cross would only have proven that he was the fraud and blasphemer that his enemies said he was. Without his agonizing death on the cross, the resurrection would have been a façade, a kind of play-acting with no significance.

The amazing truth is that Jesus' crucifixion was both the greatest sin ever committed and the necessary means for God to forgive and save sinners. The resurrection did not overturn or reject Jesus' death, but validated it and affirmed that it was not God's curse upon him, but God's mission for him.

This is the astounding, life-altering truth that is re-told each year during Holy Week. In my experience, though, there has usually been an imbalance in Holy Week. Many, many more people attend worship on Easter Sunday than on Good Friday or Maundy Thursday (the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to hand over to us the benefits of his coming death and resurrection.) It is wonderful, of course, that so many worship on Easter, but that provides only half of the story. If we have not stood at the foot of the cross, the wonder of the empty tomb is hard to perceive - just as the cross would be only depressing if we did not follow the women to Jesus' tomb and rejoice at its miraculous emptiness.

If you have not joined in the whole cycle of Holy Week worship - Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Compline) and Easter - I urge you to enter into it fully this year. If that has been your practice, I urge you to continue it. As we walk with Jesus through the final week of his life and into the wonder of our salvation, we not only hear this good news, but experience it. We receive it not as mere information, but enter into it. It is not only another rehearsal of an old story, but the channel through which God works by the Holy Spirit to give us faith and new life.

What a gift! What a privilege! It is truly something not to be missed. See you in church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

Stump the pastor

Q: Where in the Bible does it say that Jesus went to hell? Why did he do that?

A: Nowhere does the Bible include the exact phrase from the Apostles' Creed, "He descended into hell." But 1 Peter 3:18-19 testifies that Christ "was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which

also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison who in former times did not obey."

Many Christians understand that passage to mean that Jesus descended into hell. At the time of the Reformation, it was universally understood that way. Others have interpreted it to refer to Sheol or Hades, the place of the dead. They confess the creed as "he descended to the dead." The original Latin phrase is ad inferna, "to the inferno," which can be translated either way.

The important point is that Christ's descent was not Jesus' final punishment or abandonment by God. Nor was it an attempt to humiliate his enemies. It was instead the first leg of his "victory tour," proclaiming to those who were held under the power of sin and death that he had destroyed those powers by his death and resurrection. Having humbled himself to the point of death and burial, the descent into hell was the first step in Jesus' exaltation back to the divine glory he had poured out when he was born as a human child.

How this promise from 1 Peter relates to the judgment on the Last Day (which we also confess in the Apostles' Creed - "He will come again to judge the living and the dead") is hidden in the mystery of God. The promise for us is that Christ's death was sufficient to save all of God's people from death and condemnation, even those who lived and died before his incarnation, death and resurrection. And if Jesus' saving work was sufficient for them, then it is surely sufficient for you and me!



Hey Men of Faith!

Join the guys on Wednesday, April 26, for our first Men of Faith gathering. Enjoy some buffalo wings as Andrew Weckworth shares a word from scripture and Jeff Amundson shares a bit of his story.

It'll be a good time with some good guys, so grab a buddy and join us!

Destination:
Reformation

500th Anniversary of the Reformation Event

Saturday, April 29, 2017

at St. John's Lutheran Church in Howard Lake

A day of worship, education and fellowship with four outstanding speakers: Dr. Steven Paulson, Dr. Roy Harrisville, Dr. Michael Rogness, and Dr. Paul Westermeyer. The day will begin with registration at

9 a.m. and conclude with vespers and 6 p.m. and a lot of fun in-between. Through worship, speakers and workshops we will explore key Reformation themes in theology, music and history. This is a free event and open to everyone. But registration is requested for planning purposes. There is a \$10 per person fee if you wish to have lunch and dinner onsite. Registration forms are available in the church office.

If you are interested in carpooling, please contact the church office at 320-587-2093.



Christian Life Management

As the years creep up on me, I find the endless advertisements for retirement planning harder to ignore. The issue is starting to move from a distant reality to a pressing concern! One reason the ads hit home is that so many of them are selling anxiety and worry. To be sure, each firm promises to provide such great returns that all my worries will end and all my dreams will come true, but the underlying appeal is to convince me that my current retirement savings are surely inadequate and my future well-being hangs in the balance if I don't buckle down and get serious.

Of course, a key part of Christian Life Management is to be as responsible as we can in handling the possessions God entrusts to us. God calls us to be good stewards, or managers, of what truly belongs to Him. As we do that, however, we are free to approach it in certain confidence, not anxiety, in peaceful hope, not worry, because our trust is in the Lord, not in our investments. As Psalm 145 declares, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing."

Living in such a gracious promise, we are free, as Jesus said in Matthew 6, not to "worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink... Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." That is a freedom far more valuable than the financial freedom all those advertisements keep promising!

Serving in the Family of Faith

As in any family, there are many opportunities at Faith Lutheran to serve the other members of this faith family. Here are a few opportunities that would be a huge help to your fellow church members. If you can serve in one of these ways, contact the church and we will get you connected. If you would be willing to coordinate one of these efforts, it would be better yet!

God's Gardeners is a group of people who love being outdoors and digging in the dirt. They tend to the shrubs and other landscaping around the church (except for the lawn).

Faith relies on volunteers to mow the lawns during the summer, but we do offer a brand new John Deere mower to use! Want to take a few spins around the church?

Running the sound board during worship is not difficult, but it is a HUGE help to the pastors and other worship leaders. Could you cover a service or two as it fits your schedule?

Faith loves having children in church, but children don't always love being there. If they need a break in the nursery, it is so helpful to have a volunteer present. Could that be you?



On June 20, we will have a group of approximately 28 people participating in the Illini 4000 passing through town. They are a non-profit group biking from New York to California to raise money for cancer research. One of the main goals during their ride is to create a connected community of cancer survivors and supporters. They do this through The Portraits Project, which is a collection of informal interviews, or "Portraits", from survivors and caregivers they meet on their ride. Their hope is that these "Portraits" will provide a source of strength and inspiration for other people affected by cancer. If you are interested in meeting the group and sharing your story with them while they are here, please contact Diane Pedersen at dianep@faithlc.com or by calling 587-2093. You can also find information about the group at illini4000.org or on Facebook: Illini4000.

SENIORS SCENE

Our 6:30 a.m. Thursday morning Bible study for men has been plowing through the Old Testament book of Judges. "Judges," unlike our legal, court judges today, were more like tribal leaders who were raised up by the Spirit of God to be "deliverers" (another translation of the Hebrew word for "judges.") These judges militarily delivered their people from neighboring enemies.

The occasion for God raising up a new judge begins with this repeated phrase: "*The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, forgetting the Lord their God.*" The heart and center of their "evil," while it also included some rather horrendous behaviors, is primarily the last 5 words of the above phrase- "*...forgetting the Lord their God.*" Another phrase, echoing the same problem is, "*...all the people did what was right in their own eyes.*"

How current is that? Forsaking worship and scripture, or seeking the consul of God and dedicating ourselves to living by God's will is not a high priority in our American society. That includes some church members. Doing what I myself think is good, or what the majority of people in our culture believe is true, seems to be more important than God's will for us.

There is a very important question to be asked here: "What is my eternal judgement based upon?" Will God finally judge me by what I sincerely believe to be true and good ("*right in their own eyes.*"), or will He judge me by His will, which He has dutifully made known in Scripture? Not a hard question to answer, is it?

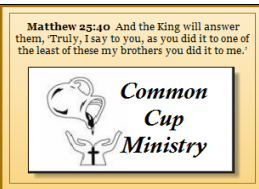


What is so amazing is how God never abandons His people. He always did far beyond what His chosen people deserved. He does the same for us today. God has since revealed far more than people knew in the days of the judges. He has sent Jesus, and revealed that in Jesus believers in Him are "judged" free from sin, and "given" salvation. Cleansed and freed we are motivated by the Holy Spirit to cling to His Word to know His truth, and to live a new life in Him. We even look forward to Jesus' day of return to live in God's glory forever.

While God will always remain faithful to us, there continue to be challenges to our faith. While each one of us, people of all ages, can stray from God, one particular group of vulnerable people is our youth who leave home for college and university life, for distant jobs or for the military. Satan uses college or university professors, peers, classes saturated with atheistic or watered down Christianity to lure them away from Jesus and His Word of truth. Who will help our youth continue on the "straight and narrow" when they leave us?

Here is one answer to that question: the people connected to "**The Prodigal Project.**" Pastor Dave Wollan and other members of our staff make regular trips to colleges and universities in our area, bringing students together for worship, communion, discussion and genuine Christian fellowship. Some interesting and heart-warming stories of faith come back with them.

Come and hear about "**The Prodigal Project**" at our **Seniors Potluck** meeting on **Thursday, April 27**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**. I hope you don't miss this one!! Bring your friends.



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|  <p>Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.'</p> <p>Common Cup Ministry</p> | <p>Hutchinson 105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2 Hutchinson, MN 55350 320-587-2213 Website: www.common-cup.org</p> | <p>Glencoe 925 13th Street East Glencoe, MN 55336 320-864-5511</p> | <p>Fare for All Delivery Thursday, April 27 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. At the CCM Office</p> | <p>Community Meal @ FLC Sunday, April 2 4-6 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Common Cup has opened a Thrift Store in Glencoe at 712 11th Street E. All proceeds from sales will directly benefit individuals and families that are in need throughout McLeod County. They are looking for donations of clothing, dishes, bedding, household items, small tools, small appliances, small furniture and kids toys, puzzles and games. Hours are: Sunday & Monday: Closed; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday Noon-7:30 p.m.; 1st & 3rd Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Come and check it out!</p> | | <p>Annual 5K Walk/Run will take place on Saturday, May 13, at Masonic West River Park in Hutchinson. Registration forms are available in the church office, CCM office, or on the CCM website.</p> | | |
| <p>It is that time of year again when Common Cup Ministry starts looking to purchase tents and camping supplies to be given to homeless or others in need of interim shelter. If you would like to donate a tent, money to purchase a tent, or know of a place tents can be purchased for \$20-\$30, please contact Bev at the CCM office. Thank you!</p> | |  | | |
| <p>Diaper Distribution takes place the last Tuesday of each month, April 25, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CCM office. Donations are always welcome and very much needed. Donations can be left in either Common Cup Corner at Faith.</p> | <p>Vineyard Methodist Church provides Laundry Love Ministry which takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next one will be April 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7. Any donations to this program are greatly appreciated!</p> | |  | |



Welcome New Members!

New Members will be received at Faith on Sunday, May 7, with orientation sessions starting the week after Easter, April 23. If you or someone you know would like to join Faith or would like more information, please contact Marsha @ 587-2093 or email her marshas@faithlc.com.

Thrivent Action Plans

Thank you to those of you who are supporting the ministry of Faith through Thrivent Action Plans! It is a simple online application that you need to fill out. Then Thrivent will send you a \$250 card to use as "Seed Money" for an event or activity. This money can be used for fundraising events, educational events and other church/community activities. This year, we will run a monthly list of different opportunities at Faith that could use sponsorship. If you are a Thrivent Member, please contact the office if you are willing to sponsor one of these events. Please note that it can take a couple of weeks for this to be processed through Thrivent, so you will want to apply early for these events.

Coming up in April and May: Community Meals, Hunger Free Fruit, Faith Family Fun Activities, Mugs and Muffins, Men's Club, Council Retreat, New Member Lunch, Complaine, Release Time Celebration, Easter Breakfast, HAY Speaker, FLY leader meeting, and High School Free Lunch.



MOUNT CARMEL ADULT CAMP

LIFE can be such a rush; always on the go, OR, it can be a "same old; same old" drag. We know there are opportunities to slow down and be renewed in spirit. But we may not take advantage of real opportunities for soul and body refreshment.

Do I have a deal for you!!! Take advantage of a 3-day Adult Camp at Mt. Carmel Bible Camp. Expect to be spiritually fed. Mt. Carmel is Scripture and Jesus centered. Its overall camp theme is "JESUS ONLY."

The daily program is varied; but usually begins with a bountiful and healthy breakfast in the lodge that overlooks beautiful Lake Carlos. Opening worship and learning sessions, in the relatively new and pleasant chapel, continue through the morning. Dinner is back at the lodge (no long walks for that), and food is absolutely delicious. After dinner you make your choices-pontoon rides on the lake, tours of area attractions, play golf, go for a walk or take a nap, read, or spend time in prayer in the Prayer Chapel down by the lake. Special afternoon highlights are a concert by camp musicians, a 1-man drama by Jerome Swenson, a pastor/actor-all about Jesus, Bible characters and Christian faith. Add to all this some time to relax and visit with other campers from all over the country.

Housing is in old or new cabins; or if you reserve it very early, in a lodge (similar to a motel). There is also an RV camp with all necessary hook ups.

You can see the prices and other information in a folder I (Pastor Paulus) have available for you. Ask me for one. Should you need financial help to attend, see Pastor Pilgrim. We have funds to help anyone who can't afford this.

Pastor Paulus and Gladys are attending the Mt. Carmel adult camp **August 28-31**. Walter Sundberg, seminary church history professor for 30 years will address "Fundamental Questions for the Christian Believer." Long time preacher at Mt. Carmel, Pastor Jim Bjorge, spent most of his ministry at First Lutheran, Fargo, ND. I hope you can treat yourself to some special time away at Mt. Carmel.

Music Notes

Faith's musicians are preparing a wide selection of pieces to supplement worship in the most significant time of the church year, Holy Week. FLY Band has truly been coming into their own, and



will continue to lead the closing song as we wrap up our Wednesday Lenten series. The choir will have a very busy Holy Week, partnering with CTK's choir for Good Friday and providing music for our own Easter Sunday services. Finally, our Complaine-style service for April will be an Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

My prayer for us all as we take this journey is that we would be struck anew by the magnitude of Christ's redeeming work on our behalf. Whether, as with the staff, this is truly our busiest time of year (and it becomes easy for us to get absorbed in our ever-multiplying daily tasks); or whether Easter has become for you just another Sunday to attend church: in either case, and for everyone between, let us not take for granted the love and grace we have been shown, and let us never tire of telling the story of salvation.

Mingle Box Event ~ Sun., May 7 @ 9:15 in the Faith Center

Please join us for the Mingle Box Event which is a Faith-based Intergenerational Conversation between our FLC confirmation students and the FLC adults.



Current Confirmation students will lead a conversation based on topics contained in a small "Mingle Box" and ranging from favorite Bible verses or Bible stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God's work in our life.

To the Ends of the Earth . . .

Dr. Abdul Messiah, Student at ILT and Ambassador for NHMS

Abdul, son of Pastor K.K. Alavi is soon completing his year of study at the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, SD. This is in preparation for an increased leadership of the outreach to Muslims in southern India that New Hope Mission Society supports. He has recently taught on Islam a number of Sundays at Hosanna in Watertown, SD. More recently he was at Hope in Huron. Leader of NHMS ask for your prayers for this faithful servant leader.



Faith Lutheran Funds Will Go to Work to Feed the Starving of South Sudan

To read the news is to learn of dramatic stories of famine and starvation in places like South Sudan. You gave \$1,500 in last falls hunger appeal that is going to work to meet needs of the desperate. This is being distributed through an Outreach Center of our Augustana District partners from Tabor Congregation in Hawassa, Ethiopia. We can be assured that they are stewarding well this modest but important gift.

Ethiopia Partnership Cares for Body and Soul

Funds soon to be sent will enable the Tabor agriculturalist to begin a new year of working with several small farmers to improve their farming practices. These farmers are also connected to Outreach Centers where the Good News of Jesus Christ is lifted up. This year Tabor has increased their number of evangelists to 58. While we may not be able to match completely this increase, we rejoice in their bold witness and commitment to the Great Commission. Body and Soul are treasured by our partners in witness. Praise be to God.



The 19th Annual Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Basketball Jamboree will be held at Glencoe/Silver Lake High School Gymnasium on Saturday, April 1. The doors open at 4 p.m. and games begin at 5:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$8.00 and all students are \$6.00.

Male and female area high school senior athletes will play two basketball games, entertainment will be provided by Glencoe/Silver High Dance School Danceline, Kelly's Dance Academy, Laketown Gymnastics, Touch of Grace Dance, Encore School of Dance, Hutch Key Club, Hutch Tigers Special Olympics, Jingle Therapy, Therapy Dogs, Buffalo Wild Wings eating contest, silent auction, plus much more.

The proceeds from this event will help defray the medical expenses of Roland Jaehnert, Carver; Behr Vogelpohl, Cokato; Adele France, Glencoe; Nathaniel Braith, Hamburg; Isaac Becker, Kristopher Davis, Hope Dummer, Boden Larson, Emma Mason - Young & Matthew Rustad, Hutchinson; Julian Lopez, Litchfield; Brody Moses, New Auburn; Jase Dressel & Beau Larson, Silver Lake; Henry Dolan, South Haven; Maddison Mertz, Victoria.

For more information call Ralph Johnson at 320-587-6733. Donations to the Tim Orth Foundation may be mailed to Ralph Johnson, 558 Juergens Rd., Hutchinson, MN 55350 or Don Tangen, PO Box 33, Glencoe, MN 55336. Thank you for your support.



Faith Lutheran Church Women

Yay ~ the Rummage Sale is less than one month away! You can start bringing donations to the church on Monday, April 24 at 8 a.m. This year there will be a special Botique area for antiques and a Bistro for your dining pleasure. We are looking for donations of furniture (indoor and outdoor), garage items, small appliances (in working order), books, toys, baby items, décor/holiday items, craft/sewing projects, (completed and supplies), plants, linens, kitchenware and of course, clothes. *NO TV's, computers, large appliances or exercise equipment please.* Volunteers interested in helping please sign-up at the church or call Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227.



Mugs and Muffins

Saturday, April 22 at 9:30 a.m.

(note that this is one week later than usual)

Bring a Mug and Bring a Friend, we'll take care of the rest.

Speaker: Debi Decker

What
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There is a large collection of **Lost and Found** articles at the church. You can see pictures of the items on Facebook or you can stop by the table outside the offices to see if anything that you **LOST** has been **FOUND**. Any items not claimed by the end of the month (this includes items left in the kitchen) will be donated to the rummage sale.



Have you heard of the Amazon Smile Program? Through this program you can designate .5% of any purchase you make through Amazon to a non-profit of your choice. If you make Faith Lutheran Church your preference, any time you make a purchase through Amazon they will make a donation to FLC. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> to register with Amazon Smile today and thank you for creatively supporting the mission and ministry of FLC!

You're
Invited

To an Open House to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Ardell Novotny!

Ardell will be visiting with guests in the Faith Center from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, April 8. Ardell's family invites *you* to come and celebrate this special day with them!





Thoughts and Prayers

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

- Lance Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Quantico, VA - son of Dawn Bos)
- 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 (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son of Lenny and Patti Rutledge)
- TSgt Patrick Scharn (Air Force, Qatar - husband of Elizabeth Scharn)
- 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)
- Lance Corporal 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

Bernice Vorbeck

Cokato Manor

Patricia Paulson

Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Harold Sanken

Harvey Skorheim

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Don Fitzgerald

Betty Garberich

Lucille Yukel

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Standing firm in the faith for 500 years!

