

Faith Matters

Pastors' Page

JULY 2016

Tension between the people and local authorities,
Suspicion of government,
Insurrection,
And acts of terror.

Sound familiar? Sounds like a summary of our headlines lately. Except these are the headline ripped from Jerusalem in the 30s. No, not the 1930s, I'm talking 30 A.D., Jesus' time. Those were some tense, tumultuous days. The #JewishLivesMatter movement was in full swing against the Roman government. Zealots incited violence and stirred rebellion. Pontius Pilate responded brutally. And in the middle of it all came a wandering preacher from the backwaters of Nazareth, preaching about the kingdom of God.

There were many who thought that Jesus was the answer to the world's chaos. The people hoped that he would be the leader that would free them from Roman oppression. The second-coming of King David. They were disappointed.

Instead, "the answer" was arrested, tortured, and executed like a common thief. And thus showed himself truly to be the answer!

In our present day world, which seems to be boiling over with racial tension, divided and frustrated over government, and terrorized by attacks, the answer is the same: Jesus.

Likewise, for you who struggle with addiction, depression, cancer, relationships, selfishness, brokenness, and pain: Jesus!

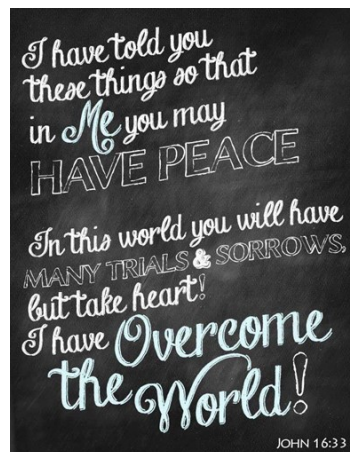
The one whom the king tried to kill at birth, who calmed the storm, who healed the sick, who stood up to the authorities, who took the sin of the world to the cross, and the one that conquered death itself; he is still at work today.

He is still bringing order to chaos. He is bringing peace in the midst of strife. He brings compassion in a world of selfishness. He creates community in our isolation. He loves in a world of hate. He forgives in a world full of sinners.

So have faith, my brothers and sisters, for Christ is here, and Christ is at work. He is working through his Word and sacraments. He is working by the power of his Spirit. He is working through you!

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

See you in church,
Pastor Dave



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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.

Inside this issue:

Financial Update	2
God' Gardeners	2
Stump the Pastor	3
Upcoming Events	4
Fall Small Groups	5
Common Cup	6
Prayers and Staff Directory	7
Calendar	Insert
FLYouth	Insert
Faith Kids	Insert



Faith-full Finances

In this presidential election, as in most, many voices insist that the chief issue is the economy. They say that worry about financial well-being and security dominates all other issues of concern.

Christians, of course, are not immune from economic fears and anxieties, but we do have a promise that both calls us and allows us to trust that we will have all that we need. Recognizing God as our Creator and Sustainer frees us to trust that He will always give us "our daily bread." "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." (Psalm 145:15-16)

That trust in God's steadfast promise and providing frees us to give generously, to make our offerings the "first fruit," before we pay any other bills, and to be confident even in times of hardship that we will receive all that we truly need. What a gift it is to put our trust in the Lord and not in our own resources, much less in presidential candidates!



God's Gardeners

For many years now, our volunteer Spit 'n' Shine crew has done a marvelous job of cleaning and maintaining the inside of our building. Some of those same people along with others have worked on the landscaping outside the building, but that effort has never been as well organized as Spit 'n' Shine.

We are trying to shore up that outside effort by forming a crew similar to Spit 'n' Shine, but dedicated to the outside of the building. God's Gardeners will be advised by an experienced master gardener and focus on caring for the flowers, shrubs and beds around the church.

If you like to garden or just work outside and would be willing to help make the church look as good outside as it does inside, we would appreciate the help. Just call the church and tell us that you'd like to be one of God's Gardeners!



stump the pastor

Q: It is often said that “we all worship the same God.” Does Christianity teach that or not?

A: This has been a controversial question with a number of different aspects to it. Here are a few thoughts about it, though much, much more could be said.

The Bible insists that there is only one, true God (Isaiah 45:5-6, Romans 16:27), but it also acknowledges that people worship other gods. (Note that references to the one, true **God** are capitalized, while references to idols or false **gods** are not.) Throughout Israel’s history, the conviction grew that the other gods people worship are not simply false or evil, but that they do not even exist (see Isaiah 45:9-20 for a sharp satire on the unreality and silliness of idols).

Today, most old-style idolatry has been replaced by a smaller number of world religions. That has given rise to the common conviction that there are “many paths to the one God.” But the fact that there is only one, true God does not necessarily mean that all people are *worshipping* that same God. As much now as in ancient times, people direct their worship to gods who arose from human invention rather than divine reality. As a line from an old play reads, “God created man in His image and man, being a gentleman, returned the compliment.”

It is also true that people worship all sorts of idols that are not recognized as gods, but function that way. Money, power, success, leisure and a whole variety of vices can easily become the objects of our worship, even though they do not actually exist as gods. In the *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther notes “Anything on which your heart relies and depends...is really your god.”

Since Christianity grew out of and—Christians believe—fulfilled Judaism, we confess that Jews and Christians worship the same God. The difference is that Christians believe that “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” is also “God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” while most Jews do not (though there is a growing community of Messianic Jews today). How God will sort that out in the end remains a mystery, but St. Paul insists in Romans 9-11 that God has not rejected the Chosen People nor reneged on the covenants He made with Israel.

When it comes to other religions, Christianity maintains that, while their adherents’ worship is surely sincere, it is directed to a false conception of who God is and what He is like. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” In John 10:30, Jesus says unmistakably, “The Father and I are one.” Any notion of God that ignores or rejects Jesus is portraying a different god, and worship based on it is not directed to the one, true God who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. That does not mean that some other god actually exists, but only that the god being worshiped is not the one, true God.

It is crucial to understand, though, that the point of this conviction is NOT for us to know or declare who will not be saved. Final judgment is God’s sole prerogative. Instead, our call is to evangelize, to declare that people cannot and need not find their way to God, but that God has come to us in Jesus Christ and “desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (I Timothy 2:4) We proclaim an *exclusive* message (Jesus alone is the way to God) precisely so that Christ’s kingdom can be as *inclusive* as possible (“Go and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19). To that end, we commend all people into the hands of the gracious and merciful God uniquely revealed in Jesus, the only Son of the Father.



Fall Women’s Retreat

A fall women’s retreat called “Life is Crazy Good” will be held **Sept. 23-25 at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria.** Brochures are located outside the sanctuary. Shannon Brice attended last year and was so excited about it, she wants to get a group of women to go from Faith!

For more information contact Shannon at 612-790-5375 or email: shannonbrice@msn.com

Mugs and Muffins

This women’s ministry is taking a summer hiatus but will return in September.



MEN’S GROUP

Breakfast and Bibles

Hey, Guys!

What are you doing Saturday, August 13 from 8 - 9 a.m.?

Have you thought about going to Breakfast and Bibles? If you haven’t stopped in to check it out yet, how about coming in this month to join a great group of guys as we continue to discuss various men in the Bible as they relate to our lives—TODAY! We’re learning about ourselves, having fun, and getting to know each other. . .and don’t forget, breakfast with no decorations. Circle Saturday, August 13 on your calendar and come out to hear Pastor Scott introduce Timothy.

Bring your Bible - see you Saturday, August 13!

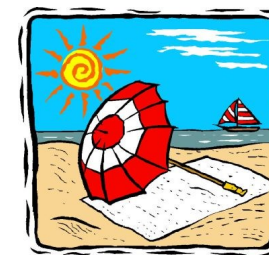
Outdoor Worship Is Still Going Strong!

Outdoor Worship Services

continue each Sunday through

September 4 at 10:10 a.m.

in Library Square Park



Compline

Faith Day at the Lake at Piepenburg Park

Sunday, August 7 from 3 - 8 p.m.

Come out for a good old fashioned church picnic!

There will be games, swimming, a potluck picnic and worship by the fire. Please sign up on Facebook, at the church or at Library Square so that we have a head count of how many to plan for.

(Please note that Worship by the Fire will replace Compline for August.)



Coming this September! Our fall theme . . .

LOST: Lost in Ourselves. Found in Christ.



Our Faith Groups theme will follow the Sunday sermon texts. Study materials will come to you via DVD or You Tube. NEW this fall will be a booklet for each Faith Group member, with devotions written by Faith members and discussion questions. Please watch for a sign-up soon and make being a part of a Faith Group a priority. Still not convinced? Read the excellent testimonies below:

Why I like being a part of a Faith Group, the small group ministry at Faith Lutheran:

When my wife and I came to Hutchinson, one thing that we were seeking was Christian community and learning. We were able to join an existing Faith Group during Lent for the "According to the Scriptures" series, and it was not only a welcoming place for learning and dialogue, but also a way for us to meet peers in the Faith Lutheran family. Our new friends in the group have helped us to be more accountable in Christian living, wrapped us into an extra time of fellowship during the week, and the material has given us a lot to talk about together at home! It's a highlight of each week, and I would recommend the ministry for anyone.

Andrew (Christine) Weckwerth

First, understand that being a leader of a group is about the last thing I wanted to do for my comfort level. However, someone from above "nudged me" to give Faith Groups a try. I called a random number of long time and newer friends from the church to see if we could put together a small group. Again, someone encouraged many of these people to agree to be in our group and what a group it turned out to be!! I was supposed to be a leader but the group gave me so much more than I ever expected in return. It was great to know that I'm not alone with my questions, doubts, and wanting to learn more. The videos the presenters prepared for us were so thought provoking, even having heard the story numerous times before.

During Lent, others joined our Faith Group and again they taught me so much. Between the two groups, I shared insecurities I've had in my faith and how I've dealt with them by searching out God's word. Our Faith Group, as people shared, reinforced what I've been searching for all along. Our hope is found in one place, our Lord.

I thank those who came up with the small group series. I've been bashful about sharing my faith with others because I don't want to offend anyone. The groups gave me a place to practice sharing my faith so I can share it with others that may also be searching for something deeper.

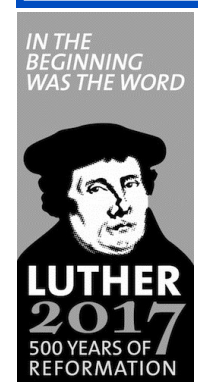
Please consider being a leader if you feel nudged to do so. If you can't be a leader, do try to join a group. You will be blessed over and over.....

Patsy Amundson

The Faith Group ministry has provided me a time to be with other Christians and study God's Word. The small group setting allows and encourages me to be bolder in my witness, dedication, and service to God. I truly enjoy this gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ, and listening to their faith stories. I always learn something from the Bible study and the others in the group.

Darlene Larson

	<p>Hutchinson 105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2 Hutchinson, MN 55350 320-587-2213</p>	<p>Glencoe 925 13th Street East Glencoe, MN 55336 320-864-5511</p>	<p>Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7.</p>		
<p>Diaper Distribution takes place the last Tuesday of each month, July 26, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CCM office.</p>		<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="2253 292 2501 493"> <p>Community Meal @ FLC Sunday, August 7 4-6 p.m.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="2501 292 2983 493"> <p>Fare for All Delivery Thursday, August 25 4:30-5:30</p> </td> </tr> </table>		<p>Community Meal @ FLC Sunday, August 7 4-6 p.m.</p>	<p>Fare for All Delivery Thursday, August 25 4:30-5:30</p>
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<p>School Supply Distribution takes place August 17th 5-8 p.m. and August 18th 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Needed supply lists and family re-quest slips can be found in the Common Cup Corner and all donations can be dropped off there.</p>		<p>Warm Coat distribution takes place on Thursday, October 15th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the McLeod County Fairgrounds.</p>			
<p>FREE COMMUNITY MEAL SCHEDULE: Wednesday 11:30-1:00 p.m. @ New Journey UCC 1st Sunday Supper 4:00-6:00 p.m. @ Faith Lutheran Church 2nd Saturday Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m. @ Bethlehem United Method-ist Church 3rd Friday Supper 5:00-6:30 p.m. @ Peace Lutheran Church 3rd Saturday Breakfast 8:30-10:30 .m. @ Christ the King 4th Friday Supper 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem United Methodist</p>		<p>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. FLC has chosen to collect the fruit and applesauce cups provided each week (200 of each). Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corner.</p> <p>Provision of Personal Products or PoPP is a program providing personal care products to students in grades 5-12. Donations for this program can also be left in the Common Cup Corner.</p>			



Coming Soon!

Reformation Celebration

October 30, 2016 - October 29, 2017

Watch for some great opportunities throughout the year to learn more about our Lutheran roots as we spend a year celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and looking at what it means for us today.

One exciting event will be a trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art on **Sunday, December 4**, to explore a rare exhibit featuring numerous artifacts and pieces from Germany depicting the life of Martin Luther.

Space will be limited so you will want to sign-up early. Discounted tickets are available thanks to Thrivent. Tickets are \$10 each and our reserved time for the tour on Dec. 4 is 3 p.m. We are looking into a bus for those who prefer not to drive themselves, which will increase the cost by about \$5-10.00 per person. We are still working on these details. 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 further information or to register, please contact Wendy Mayland at wendym@faithlc.com or call 320-587-2093.



A Few Important Dates to Remember

Sunday, August 7 ~ Faith Day at the Lake

Sunday, August 14 - begin registration for MIA Luther Exhibit Tour

Sunday, September 4 - Last worship at Library Square for the summer

Sunday, September 11 - Sunday School, Digging Deeper and Faith Groups all begin

Please see the enclosed calendar for more important dates and check out the online calendar for the latest updates and changes at faithlc.com.

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