



335 Main St. S
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093

Email:
office@faithlc.com

I love to read.

Nothing is able to break through my smartphone addiction or Netflix obsession more than a good novel! I love losing myself in a great story! Sometimes characters seem to jump off the page, and scenes are vividly displayed in my imagination!

One feature of really good novels that I enjoy a lot is a cleverly written prologue. A prologue acts as an engaging teaser, important background information, and sometimes a mysterious look at what is to come. They grab the reader, and throw you into the story.

Everyone knows the Christmas story: The epic tale of Joseph and Mary, desperately searching for a place to give birth to the Son of God in over-crowded Bethlehem. The shepherds, whose routine, boring night on the job was suddenly and gloriously interrupted by the hosts of angels and the glad tidings that “unto you is born this day...” And the newborn king’s first visitors: that same ragtag band of sheepherders, bowing down before the child in the manger, glorifying and praising God, and the quiet mother, treasuring each word and moment. We hear this amazing story each Christmas Eve, hear Linus proclaim it on *Charlie Brown*, and are reminded of it with each little nativity scene. It is a wonderful story. In fact, it is the beginning of the greatest story ever told!

But don’t forget to read the prologue!

That’s right, there is a prologue to the Christmas story! In a sense, I suppose, you could consider the entire Old Testament a prologue, but I prefer to think of it as a prequel. Luke, in chapter one of his Gospel, gives us some background to the story, but it’s not really in the prologue style. For the true prologue to the story of Jesus’ birth, for that engaging teaser, important background information, and mysterious look, we turn to John’s Gospel.

The Gospel of John, chapter one, verses 1-18, is often described as a prologue. Whereas Matthew’s Gospel describes the birth of Jesus from Joseph’s point of view, Luke from Mary’s, and Mark not at all. John’s Gospel gives us a cosmic point of view. It is a magnificent and mysterious description of the Incarnation starting in the same place as the Book of Genesis: “in the beginning.” It traces the movement and the purpose of the coming of the Son of God.

This Advent season will be one of Prologue. We will use John’s first 18 verses to engage you in the story of Jesus, give you important background on the Son of God, and delve into the mystery of the Word made flesh!

So come! Break out of your routine! Lose yourself in the story! And let your imagination be captive to the Word of God! O Come, let us adore him!

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

**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:

Stump the Pastor	2
Financials	3
Special Services	3
Seniors' Scene	4
Music and FLCW	6
Missions	7
Prayers and Staff Directory	9
FLYouth & Kids	Insert
Calendar	Insert
And Much More!	

stump the pastor

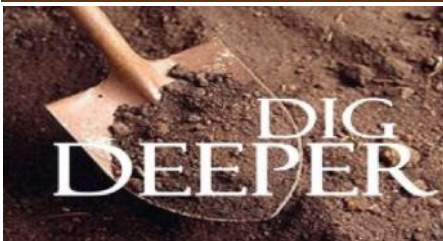
Q: I read somewhere that Christmas is actually a pagan holiday that Christians should not celebrate. What is that all about?

A: As Christian missionaries moved out into the pagan world, they realized that, if they tried to ban pagan festivals outright, it would just drive them underground, creating resistance, fear and resentment among people who believed the pagan gods were real. So, instead of banning all those festivals, the missionaries “baptized” some of them. That is, they filled them with Christian meaning, so that they were no longer pagan, but Christian.

The earliest Christian Church did not celebrate Christmas and the actual date of Jesus’ birth is not known. When Christians began to put more emphasis on Christmas, they chose December 25 as Jesus’ birthday, because it was the date of an important pagan festival. Coming a few days after the winter solstice, it looked forward to the return of spring and another growing season, which meant survival for one more year.

The Church used that occasion to talk not about the sun as a god, but the Son of God who is the light of the world. He shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome Him. He gives life not just for another year, but for all eternity. He does not merely forestall death with one more crop, but has destroyed its power forever by the cross and resurrection.

Rather than banning the pagan festival, Christianity transformed it into a joyous celebration of the Incarnation. When people today try to portray it as a pagan holiday, they are only half right. December 25 was that originally, but it is not any longer, and has not been for centuries. To suggest that Christmas is not now a thoroughly Christian festival (at least in the Church!) simply denies reality and is really a foolish claim to make. (Similar claims are made about Easter, but the answer—with some minor differences—is the same.)



Digging Deeper Opportunities

The Fire of Little Jim: What to Make of the Book of *James*

James has often been seen as a misfit in the New Testament, as devoted to God’s Law as the other books are to the Gospel. Martin Luther famously called it “a gospel of straw.” The difference, though, is not as stark as it seems. James’ fiery witness does not mark a return to the Law, but an embrace of the power of the Gospel. Come and be inspired by the fire of Little Jim. Continuing with Pastor Scott in the Faith Center through December 17.

Teaching Your Kids the Christmas Story

This class will explore creative ways to teach your children effectively what Christmas is really all about. We will examine the Biblical accounts, and then learn creative and interactive ways for your family to engage the story. Meeting in the third floor conference room with Pastor Dave Wollan, Sundays, at 9:15 a.m., December 3-17.





Imagine Capital Campaign

As the *Imagine* capital campaign draws to a close, we extend our *profound thanks* to all those who have contributed so generously to it. Despite being Faith's fourth capital campaign in a row, the support for *Imagine* was strong and steady, even into these final months of it. That helped set the stage for the exciting goal of *Upon This Rock* to pay off the mortgage by Faith's 150th Anniversary in 2020!

Joy to the World Offering

The end-of-year offering called *Joy to the World* has become an important element in the life of Faith Lutheran. It has inspired amazing generosity for several years, which has been a tremendous blessing to Faith's ministry. *Thank you* for your great generosity in the past.

Faith's leaders count on major year-end offerings to meet all of our ministry commitments, and we do not ever take that for granted. Each year, we hope and pray for your continued investment in the work that God is doing through this congregation. As this is written, the need is almost identical to this time last year, **\$56,000** to meet our *remaining expenses*, but **\$129,500** to *break even* in 2017. That is because Faith began the last couple of years with a really helpful surplus that sustained it through those times of the year when giving is lower. While meeting our expenses is most important, replacing the surplus is vital to the financial health of the church. Please give according to how God has first blessed you so that, through the proclamation of the Gospel, we may continue to bring *Joy to the World!*



TO THE WORLD!

Wednesday Evening Advent Services will be held at 6:30 p.m. each week between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year's Advent theme will be: **Unto You Is Born**

Nov. 29 "Savior" (preceded by the annual Soup/Chili Supper from 5-6 p.m.)

Dec. 6 "Messiah" with Holden Evening Prayer service

Dec. 13 "Lord" with Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 20 "Child"

Christmas Schedule:

This year Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Because of that, there will be two regular worship services in the morning, First Word at 8 a.m. and a combined Sanctuary/Foundation service at 10:10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services will be:

2 p.m. Family Worship

4 p.m. Candlelight Worship Services (*simultaneous services held in the sanctuary and Foundation.*)
Parking for these services is always at a premium. If you are able to park in a neighboring lot or on the street to allow the elderly and those with small children to park in the parking lot, those who are not able to walk as far will really appreciate it!

6 p.m. Candlelight Worship

11 p.m. Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day Service:

10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



SENIORS' SCENE

Our worship services have been blessed with some excellent special music. Recently, our spirits soared as we listened to Faith Singers, Faith Ringers, bass guitar, a hand drum, and even a harmonica, and, of course, piano and keyboard. Our director blended those instruments beautifully, with his gifts of music composition and arrangements. As one who sings in the choir, and many others said the same, that special music number echoed in my mind days before and days after we presented it. In my woodworking shop, on long walks and bike rides or driving, those words "...and all we sinners sing" kept repeating themselves inside me over and over again. Both the music and the message stirred my soul.

Still more, Paul Cravens produced a mass choir arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress" for our Reformation hymn fest on Sunday, October 29, at Christ the King. Of course, the song writers deserve credit. But so does the one who arranged it all for a unique rendition. That "someone" is our music and worship director, Paul Cravens.

Where is Paul from? What prompted him to go into music at a deep level? What compositions has he done, and how and where have they been recognized and presented? What are his future dreams for music, and musical desires for this congregation?

We are going to hear from Paul himself in December. "**MEET PAUL CRAVENS**" is our program for **SENIORS' POTLUCK** on **Thursday, December 7**, beginning with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. Please notice that this meeting is earlier in the month. Each year we meet earlier in December so that we can avoid some of the later Christmas events and family gatherings.

We'll also sing some Christmas carols, so have your favorite ready to call out. Mark your calendar right away and don't miss it....**December 7**. Bring a friend or two with you.

SnowBirds

Are you a snowbird? Will you be heading south soon?

Please make sure to let the office know when you are leaving and when you will return, so that envelopes, newsletters, etc. are sent to the correct address. If we don't have current information, these items are returned to the church and we are charged extra postage for them. You can easily update your information by calling the office at 320-587-2093 or sending an e-mail to office@faithlc.com.



Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church:

8:00 a.m. First Word
(Traditional Service in the sanctuary)

9:00 a.m. Educational Hour
Sunday School, Confirmation Class and
Multiple Adult Education Opportunities

10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Service
(Blended service in the sanctuary)

10:10 a.m. Foundation Service
(Contemporary service in Foundation)

For the youngest members of Faith

Faith Seeds: A time during each service when children of all ages are invited to come forward for a lesson geared towards them. Parents and "big kids" are invited too!

Sprouts: After Faith Seeds, during the 10:10 services, children ages 3-6 can leave for a short hands-on lesson. They will return to their parents after the sermon.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is always fun to give thanks to people who have given of themselves to share God's love to others. That is God's intended pattern for us, and He promises that nothing we do in His Name will go for naught.

So now we thank you again for a great effort. You have bought items, packed boxes, given shipping monies, worked at packing sessions, and much more. Now, please follow up with prayer that God will use these efforts and 208 boxes for His Kingdom.

Dream a little! What people might you meet in heaven some day whose hearts were turned to the Savior by your gifts? We will never know; but God knows.

So, please pray for those who will teach the 12-session course, "The Greatest Journey," all around the world, in 100 countries; and for God to lead the young people who receive these boxes to go to the class. It is about God's plan of salvation through Jesus, taught by trained native Christians. So we want to pray that Jesus will weave His way into people's hearts as the seed of His Word is sown.

A special thanks to Linda Nyman for this year's OCC displays. She always freely shares her artistic talents. Also, thanks to Wendy Magruder for her coordinated messages all during the campaign.

AND, to each one of you who participated in your own way--filling boxes, buying items for others to pack, helping with assembling and packing boxes, supervising young people at Release Time, spreading the word, providing gift cards from Thrivent, and all who prayed fervently for God to lead and motivate us. A special THANKS to Thrivent for its financial help!

I'm sure I forgot someone and some ways you served for which we are grateful. Know that this THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Is for YOU. God bless you in the Name of Jesus.



Important End of Year Reminders

- ~ Any contributions made to Faith that you would like applied to 2017 need to arrive in the church office BEFORE 12 NOON on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29. Any contributions received after that time will be applied to 2018.
- ~ Submissions for the 2017 Annual Report also need to be submitted to the office by Friday, December 29. They can be e-mailed to office@faithlc.com or dropped off at the front desk.
- ~ The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, beginning at 12 noon. (*Lunch will be served by the youth before the meeting.*)
- ~ Nominating Committee note: The committee is currently seeking members of Faith to serve on Ministry Teams and the Church Council. They will be making calls throughout this month. If you receive a call, please take the time to return it, even if your answer is "no," so that, they know that they should move on to another person. If you are interested in serving and do not receive a call, please contact the office at 320-587-2093.



Music Notes

by Paul Cravens, Director of Music and Worship

Faith's music ministry will have plenty of offerings in the upcoming Advent season, but one of particular note is our annual caroling event. Not only is it a great way to have fun singing classic Christmas songs with friends and family, but it is also (and more importantly) a wonderful outreach to many members who cannot always make it to church. I invite everyone to join us on Sunday, December 17, for an afternoon of caroling. We'll meet in the lobby by the office doors at 1:30 and organize groups to head out by 2:00, and we anticipate being done around 4:00. I look forward to seeing you there!



A quick Compline note: because of hectic staff schedules and the need to fit a lot of programming into essentially three Sundays of Advent (instead of four, as is normal), we have decided to roll our Christmas Compline into the first Wednesday night Advent service (11/29). This means that the service will already have occurred by the time you are able to read this publication, but it's worth noting that there will be no dedicated Compline service in the month of December.



Faith Lutheran
Church Women

From the FLCW (all Faith Lutheran Church Women)

Serving the Free Community Meal

On Sunday, December 3, from 4-6 p.m. If you or your family would like to participate in a great Christmas service project, you could help by bringing a hot dish or other suggested food. Another option would be to sign-up to help serve the meal. Please see the sign-up boards in the gathering spaces to see how you can help!

"Tis the Season" Christmas Luncheon

This new event will take place on Saturday, December 9, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. This delicious Christmas lunch will be served on beautifully decorated tables by individual hosts and will be followed by an awesome fashion show. Tickets are available in the church office for \$10.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the annual meeting on November 19. One piece of business was to decide how to distribute the funds raised by the FLCW in 2017. A commercial freezer and matching refrigerator for the church kitchen was a major purchase. A complete list of all end of year donations will be listed in the annual report in January.

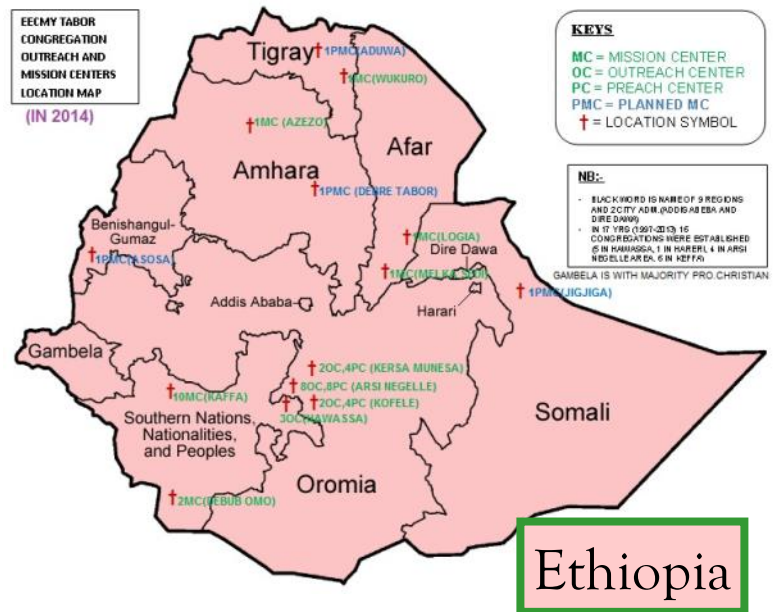
Prayers Requested for Delegation Visiting Augustana District Partners in Ethiopia

A delegation of seven or eight people from Washington, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota will travel to Ethiopia, January 15-26, 2018. Pastor Paul from Faith will be one of them.

Our major partner is the Tabor Congregation in the City of Hawassa. The Augustana District presently supports half of the cost for 54 evangelists leading outreach centers and mission outposts throughout many parts of this country. The delegation will go out to some of these areas, meet with congregational leaders, and use the time to evaluate and celebrate this marvelous partnership.

There is a second partnership with the North Central Ethiopia Synod, in which over 50 of their pastors and evangelists are helped to receive training to be better prepared for witness. Our AD congregation in Moses Lake, Washington is the principal supporter of this effort.

The delegation will spend four plus days going out from Hawassa and three days going out from the city of Dessie. Pray that winter weather here will not destroy the careful planning and important work of these leaders from our district. Pray also that unrest in the country of Ethiopia will not cause problems of any kind to our delegation.



Scrip Makes a Great Christmas Gift!



Planning to give gift cards for Christmas gifts this year? Have a lot of shopping to do at a variety of stores as you prepare for Christmas? Are you traveling for Christmas? Will you need a coffee break while you are out shopping? Then you should consider ordering through Scrip. Hundreds of businesses participate in the Scrip program and, when you buy your gift cards through Faith, the church receives a rebate back from those companies.

Why not buy your gifts, do your shopping, pay ahead for that coffee break and pick up a couple of gas cards while you are at it? You pay the same to purchase a gift card here as you would anywhere else and you help the Mugs and Muffins and Men of Faith Ministries out when you do so.

You can call or stop in the office to order cards (they take about a week to receive) or you can go online at www.shopwithscrip.com and enroll with the code **ELAB1L4956368**. By entering this code, your account will be associated with Faith Lutheran so we can begin earning rebates! On this site, you can also see a list of all of the businesses that participate in the Scrip program and the percentage of rebates that each gives back.

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.'



THANK YOU

To all those that attended and participated in the Coming Together in Song Concert. It was a great success and your support is always greatly appreciated.

Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7. They serve over 35 families at a cost of over \$600 each month. Donations of laundry soap, dryer sheets, and quarters are always greatly appreciated.

Hutchinson

105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2213

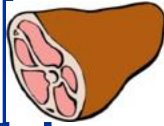
Website: www.common-cup.org

Glencoe

1022 12th St E Ste100
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-5511

**Community
Meal @ FLC**
Sunday, Dec. 3
4 - 6 p.m.

It is time to start planning your **Christmas meal** so why not get it through Fare for All. For \$30 you will get a ham, chicken wings, meatballs, mixed vegetables, and an apple pie. December distribution takes place on **Thursday, December 21**, at the CCM Office between **4:00 and 5:30 p.m.** Place your order by **Friday, December 15** at the CCM office. Have a Merry Christmas!



THANK YOU to all who so faithfully give to HungerFree McLeod's Backpack Program, which provides weekend food for 251 K-4th grade students on the free/reduced program in McLeod County schools. Without your help, we would not be able to serve these children. If you or a group you know would like to spend a few hours packing bags, call the CCM office and sign up. Each group that comes in has a lot of fun participating in the packing process.



Wings is a local organization that provides for the immediate needs of children who are being removed from their homes and placed into foster care. It is holding a *Christmas Light Contest* fundraiser. You can register your house by December 2 and judging will take place the evening of December 9. Registration forms are available at Common Cup and in the church office with an entry fee of \$10. All proceeds will benefit children in emergency foster care. You can find more information about Wings on its Facebook page: Wings-McLeod County.

Another way to support Wings is by donating clothing. Following is a list of immediate needs:

Boys underwear – sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12

Girls underwear – sizes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14

Boys pajamas – sizes 3 mos, 9 mos, 12 mos, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16

Girls pajamas – sizes 6 mos, 12 mos, 18 mos, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16

Tennis shoes – all sizes, for girls and boys – We want to include a new pair of shoes in the pillow cases each child receives as many times they arrive without any shoes to wear.





Thoughts and Prayers

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



Remember our Faith members in
nursing homes & health care centers:

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
Bernice Vorbeck
Lucille Wehking

Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Emmanuel Home (Litchfield)

Verla Biddle

Glencoe Nursing Home

Helen Sandlund
Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick
Alice Bell
Pearl Betker
Russell & Irene Christensen
Hazel Daniels
Dave & Betty Jensen
Joanne Olesen
Harvey Skorheim
Charlie & Harriet Thor
Vivian Wigen

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Don Fitzgerald
Betty Garberich
Lucille Yukel

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

Pastors

Scott Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

Staff

Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com
Gladys Nissen, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	gladysn@faithlc.com
Laura Weikle, Director of Children & Family Ministry	lauraw@faithlc.com
Paul Cravens, Director of Music and Worship	paulc@faithlc.com
Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com
Diane Pedersen, Finance Coordinator	dianep@faithlc.com
Keith Lange, Maintenance	
Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE PAID
Hutchinson MN
Permit No 5

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Put mailing label here

