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RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
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SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAY 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

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Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

Pastors Page

APRIL 2016

On April 23, the Augustana District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) will hold its annual convention at Living Word Lutheran church in Marshall, where Pastor Dave Christensen (who formerly served at Faith) now serves. Faith Lutheran played a major role in forming the Augustana District (AD). Wendy Mayland and Diane Pedersen of our staff both work a few hours a week for the district and two of its boards are chaired by Pastor Paul Knudson (World Mission) and me (Christian Education). Pastor Dave, Gladys and Mike have planned and led AD confirmation retreats. A grant from the AD helped fund our Prodigal college outreach ministry. Faith has hosted AD's annual convention every other year since it was founded in 2010.

Yet, despite being involved in AD up to our collective eyebrows, my sense is that it remains largely unknown to the people at Faith. In light of the upcoming convention, it seemed worthwhile to offer a little refresher on these organizations.

LCMC is a national Lutheran church body that Faith joined when it first formed in 2001. It calls itself "an association of congregations." Basically, it is our denomination, but since it is an association, it is organized differently than most denominations.

One unusual feature of LCMC is that churches are not automatically grouped into smaller, geographical units like synods. Instead, they are free to band together (or not!) into groups called districts. Some are geography-based (Texas or Heartland), but others (like Augustana) are non-geographical. Any LCMC church can join the AD, and it now has about 60 member congregations in 10 states.

Why form a district like Augustana? LCMC, by design, is very loosely organized, with very few services or programs offered by the national leadership. So, the AD focuses on three areas that provide helpful services to its member churches and to LCMC as a whole: Theology, Church and Mission.

Theology expresses our commitment to teach and pass on the rich gifts of confessional Lutheran theology. Church reflects the services that the AD offers to its congregations, from help with calling new pastors to conflict resolution. Mission helps churches pool resources to support mission efforts that have been carefully evaluated. Pastor Paul's work with the Tabor congregation in Ethiopia is an example of the great results that can come from joint mission work.

The current service director of the AD is a guy some of you may remember, Pastor Randy Freund. His predecessor was another familiar face, Pastor Mark Richardson, now serving at Christ the King. The AD provides wonderful opportunities to join with other LCMC churches to serve Christ and our neighbor. If you want to know more, check out the AD website, www.augustanadistrict.org and its Facebook page, and if you would like to attend the convention in Marshall, contact any of us at the church.



Imagine Capital Campaign

In recent months, there has been lots of good news about the progress Faith Lutheran is making on paying off the mortgage on the new building. The principal balance is dropping by almost \$14,000 per month and—even without any additional principal payments—will fall below \$2 million by the end of 2016. All of this is due to the faithful, generous gifts to the Imagine Capital Campaign by so many members of the church. Please continue to support Imagine, so that the church might well pay off this loan by the time of our 150th anniversary in 2020.

Community Opportunities and Events

18th Annual Tim Orth Memorial Foundation Basketball Jamboree.

Glencoe/Silver Lake High School Gymnasium
Saturday, April 2

Doors open at 4 p.m. the games begin at 5:30.
Admission for adults is \$8, for students \$6.

All proceeds from this event will help defray the medical expenses of 13 local children suffering from illness or accidents.

5K Walk/Run for Common Cup Ministries, Inc. Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m.

This event is an annual fund raiser for CCM. Their mission is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one 'common cup' to minister to those in need. Applications and more information is available in the CC Corners at Faith or at www.common-cup.org

Faith-full Finances



Have you considered using Simply Giving to give your offerings to Faith Lutheran by electronic fund transfer? It is a simple, effective program that assures that the church receives your gifts to God regularly and efficiently. The sign-up is simple, can be changed at any time, and there is no cost to you. For more information, contact Diane Pedersen at the church.



Crow River Habitat for Humanity would like to invite you to become involved.

There are two great events coming up.

On April 20 is a Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser at Vineyard Methodist Church from 4:30-7 p.m.

Then, on May 13 at 5:30 p.m. is the 11th Annual Hammer & Nails Dinner at the Crow River Country Club.

If you are not able to participate in these fundraisers how about helping to build the 24th home from May to November 2016. A sign up sheet is available on the website <http://www.crhhf.org/>.

Q: Why is Holy Communion not celebrated at every service every week?

A: That is a short question that requires a long answer. Different churches vary widely in the frequency of communion, even among Lutherans. Some celebrate it every week, without fail, convinced that no worship service is complete without it. In Jesus' Words of Institution, they focus on, "Do this *as often as* you drink it in remembrance of me." This tradition, however, tends to elevate the sacrament to a mystical experience that is more important than God's Word. Some liturgical churches symbolize that by placing the altar on a higher level than the pulpit. I have heard liturgists advise that if communion makes the service too long, cut the sermon short!

Other churches go the opposite way and rarely celebrate Holy Communion. Most Evangelical churches are non-sacramental, that is they do not believe Christ is truly present or at work in the sacraments. For them, communion is only a reminder of what Jesus did long ago to save us. Since God's Word can do that as well, maybe better, there is no great need for the sacrament. In the Words of Institution, these churches emphasize "do this *in remembrance of me*" (although, in the Bible, "remembering" implies much more than just recalling a past event).

Faith Lutheran's roots are in Lutheran Pietism, which celebrated Holy Communion rarely for a different reason. Pietists tended to fear the sacrament more than treasure it, due to St. Paul's warning in I Corinthians 11:29: "All who eat and drink without discerning the

body eat and drink judgment against themselves." That was a call for the Corinthians to repent and unite around Holy Communion, but it struck Pietists instead as a threat that anyone who communed but was unworthy in God's eyes ran a serious risk of being condemned. To make sure people did not receive Holy Communion too casually, it was administered only two or four times a year. The tragedy of that well-intentioned practice is that Jesus promised in the Words of Institution that communion was given "for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Confessional Lutheran theology believes that the Lord's Supper is a function of God's Word. It reinforces the promises proclaimed in the Bible and preaching, and brings them home to each individual. So, a service with preaching, but not communion is valid, but communion without preaching is not. This is why Lutheran churches traditionally place the pulpit even with or higher than the altar. We treasure the sacrament as a means of grace that drives home the reality that God forgives our sin, but we keep it firmly anchored in the preaching of the Gospel.

To that end, Faith Lutheran administers Holy Communion nearly every Sunday, but not at every service. This practice is an attempt to honor Jesus' call to commune frequently without displacing the central role of God's Word in worship.

Seniors' Scene

One of the most special medical services I have ever known is that of hospice. I have worked with the hospice people and organizations in several communities. I have heard the praises of patients, family members, and others over the years. These doctors, nurses and volunteers work hard at their mission to provide tender and loving care for someone at the end stages of their lives. They inspire hope and gratitude

through their attitudes and services. It takes an extraordinary kind of person and unique training to enter into that specialized care. We are so fortunate to have them available.

I also hear comments indicating that there are many of you who have questions about hospice. So the steering committee of our Seniors' Potluck Group decided to have someone from hospice come and tell us exactly what they are and how they operate. That will take place at our next **Seniors' Potluck Group** gathering on

Thursday, April 28, at 12:00 noon; beginning with potluck dinner. Monica Stanton, with Allina hospice, will speak to us, and answer your questions.

Please join us, and bring someone else who will benefit from a special time together.

Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)

We would like to thank everyone who donated food and helped with the "Lut'ran" community meal. We heard so many grateful comments from the people that we served that night.



The Rummage Sale is almost here! You can start to bring donations to the church on April 25 at 8 a.m. Donations will be accepted through Wednesday evening. The sale starts on Thursday, April 28 at 4 p.m. and runs through Saturday at noon.



Current Digging Deeper Options

Faith will offer the following classes on the four Sundays in April.

"Hang-ups" What are your hang-ups when it comes to faith? Pastor Dave, Gladys Bonnema, Mike Lauer, and Josiah Frusti will be leading a 4-week class exploring different issues people have with the faith. Expanding on their Prodigal Worship themes, they will discuss the Plurality of Religions, the Ambiguity of Prayer, Science and Faith, and The Problem of Evil. Meeting in the Faith Center.

"A Whale of a Tale" The book of Jonah has caused all sorts of controversy through the years and for all the wrong reasons. It is actually "a whale of a tale," full of humor, exaggeration, irony and a powerful message about God's will for the world. Meeting in the Office Conference Room

"New Members Class" A Class for those interested in joining Faith Lutheran Church. Contact Marsha at 320-587-2093 to register. Meeting in the Third Floor Conference Room.

Two Opportunities to Hear the Tabor Story

We at Faith and Christ the King will host Pastor Dawit and his wife, Tirunesh, for an evening at **Christ the King, on Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.** Pastor Dawit leads our Augustana District partner church in Ethiopia. The AD is now in the third year of this partnership that is extending the amazing outreach mission of this Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus congregation. We have now grown to the point that we are giving half of the support for 54 evangelists sent out all across Ethiopia. Many more aspects of our partnership will be shared this evening. Refreshments and fellowship with area AD congregations will follow. **Don't miss this.**



The men's Bible study groups of Faith and Christ the King will have a time with Pastor Dawit **Thursday morning, April 21, 6:30 a.m. at Faith.** Other men are invited and most welcome to attend.

To prepare more for this visit, go to the Augustana District web site at www.augustanadistrict.org. Click on Missions, and then World Missions. It is being updated weekly.

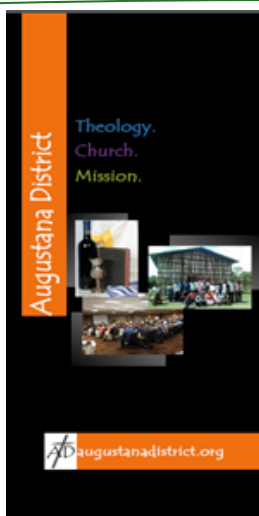
Special Giving Opportunity through New Hope Mission Society



With our help, year three of the Shaliach Bible College led by Pastor K.K. Alavi in India will have 50 students in three classes. It costs \$1,250 per student per year to cover their residential expenses, as well as the costs of those teaching them. Individuals, families, or groups of friends providing the support for one student would help NHMS immensely in meeting this challenge.

Augustana District Convention
Theme: *You Will Be My Witnesses!*
Living Word Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN
Saturday, April 23, 2016 beginning at 9 a.m.
(Registration begins at 8 a.m.)

Registration and schedule information available in the office.



Important April 2016 Dates

April 2 Breakfast and Bibles	April 10 Faith Family Fun Day	April 22 One Homeless Night
April 3 New Members Luncheon Free Community Meal Compline	April 12 Middle School Release Time	April 23 Augustana District Convention
April 6 Elementary Release Time End of Year Celebration at Peace	April 16 Mugs & Muffins	April 25 Begin Bringing Donations For Rummage Sale
April 9 Council & Ministry Teams Retreat	April 19 Ministry Teams and Council Meetings	April 28 Rummage Sale Begins Senior Potluck


Mingle Box Event ~ Sunday, May 1 ~ 9:15 in the Faith Center

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

We gather in the Faith Center during a designated Digging Deeper session, where two current confirmation students will lead a conversation with up to six adults at each table. The topics of conversation are contained in a small "Mingle Box" and range from favorite Bible verses or Bible stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God's work in our life.

There will be assorted treats and beverages to accompany the conversation. Join us for a wonderful time of witness to the power of God's love and work in our lives and see firsthand that our future church is in good hands with the youth of today!

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.'



Common Cup Ministry

COMMON CUP CORNER


<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>
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Website: www.common-cup.org

Community Meal
Sunday,
April 3
4-6 p.m.

Fare for All Delivery
Thursday,
April 28
4:30-5:30 p.m.


Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next date is **April 19**, 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. You bring the dirty clothes, Vineyard Methodist Church will bring the quarters.



FUND RAISING EVENT

DAIRY QUEEN—2nd Tuesday each month between 4:00 & 8:00 p.m., a portion of all sales will benefit Common Cup. What an easy and delicious way to support such a great ministry!

It is that time of year again when Common Cup Ministry starts looking to purchase tents 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.



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

Orville Olson

Harold Sanken

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Delores Saar

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Dorothy Christensen

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