

Faith Matters

MAY 2016

Pastors' Page - Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

We started "Spotlight on Aging" in the year 2006. So this is actually the 11th year for these articles. They have highlighted a total of 21 Seniors. Of those 21, seven have gone on to their greatest and final hope, life in heavenly glory with Jesus. In theological circles, we refer to those who have died in the faith as the "Church Triumphant." That title refers to the fact that our death, while it is the end of our earthly life, is not defeat, but Christ's victory for sinners through His cross and resurrection. Those of us in the faith still living here on earth are referred to as the "Church Militant." We are still doing battle against sin, seeking God's help against the devil, who tempts us to adopt passions, priorities, teachings and cultural life styles contrary to God's commands.

So why do we put the "Spotlight" on selected elders? When we write up these little glimpses into their lives, we are not presenting them as spiritual heroes, better than others. In fact, the focus (or spotlight) is not so much on them as it is on Jesus. When we make selections, these "saints" of God are surprised and bashful to think that we see God's love in Jesus shining through them into our lives. Often, they don't even believe that could be true, and resist the whole idea of being interviewed and written about. So it is with God's ways in and through us.

Actually, you could have the spotlight on you. We could write many more spotlight articles, one with your name in it. When you turn to God in repentance and seek His forgiveness, knowing He promises to deliver that very grace from the cross of Jesus, God Himself makes special things happen in you. You experience His peace. You ask yourself what you can do in gratitude. You seek His will for your life. You find ways to serve Him, directed at needy people. You give offerings and pray prayers for many people and causes. You want people around you to have that same grace from God He has poured out on you. I believe God has His ways of bearing His witness through you. We who watch you probably see that more than you ever will. And we give thanks to God for His grace, and for how it shines forth through you.

Once again I have to thank Faith Lutheran Church for not forgetting our Senior members. Our Befriender visitors and pastoral care programs are second to none, in my view. Aging in faith will always be a struggle for our elders. But we boast (in a good way) that Faith Lutheran will walk through every trial, every suffering and failure with everyone, elders included, in the Name and power of our Triune God. Pray for God to lead us always higher in that calling.



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Imagine Capital Campaign

At the last church council meeting, the financial report revealed an amazing detail. Our *required* monthly payment on the mortgage is around \$12,000 a month. In the previous month, however, the principal had dropped by \$14,000! How can that be?

Making extra principal payments and re-amortizing the loan each year have reduced the required payment by more than a third, but the church has continued to make the original monthly payment of \$19,400 each month. Because of that, the principal reduction alone each month is more than the entire principal and interest payment we are required to make. That is dramatically accelerating the payment schedule and saving untold thousands of dollars in interest! **Thank you** to all of you whose generous support of the Imagine Capital Campaign make this all possible.

Faith-full Finances

Why do churches, including Faith Lutheran, urge their people to give regularly and generously? It is *not* only or even primarily because the church needs money to do its mission. It is true, of course, that freely-given offerings are the church's only real source of income, and we make no effort to disguise or deny that. But if the church were suddenly funded by an endowment, it would not change our teaching on giving one bit.

That's because Christian giving is first of all a spiritual discipline that helps keep money in its proper place in our lives and helps prevent it from becoming an idol. For rich and poor alike, money can easily take the place of God as the source of our security and trust. Giving away a percentage of our income reminds us that money is a tool that God gives us to provide for ourselves and others—no more, no less—and to keep our trust and gratitude centered in Him. Knowing that not only makes giving possible, but truly joyful.



Seniors' Scene

Well...here we go again. Get your questions ready. "Stump The Pastors" is scheduled for the final Seniors' Potluck meeting of the program year on **Thursday, May 26.**

As always, we'll begin with potluck at noon, followed by a devotion, and then the program. Bring your questions. There will also be paper and pencils at the table to write last minute questions that come to mind. We'll have a basket for collecting the question slips, and a

deadline for getting them in. That will give a chance to go over them and categorize them for smoother discussion.

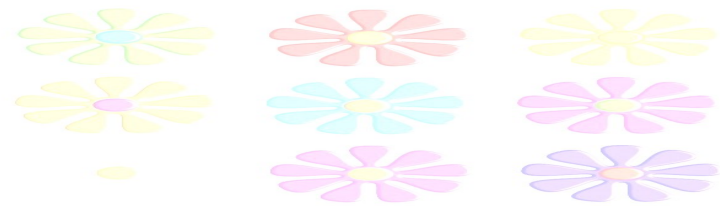
No, the pastors aren't hoping you forget. We welcome the opportunity, as we know questions are a part of our growth in faith, and a rich part of understanding Scripture and the Catechism. Remember Luther's question, "What does this mean?"

So your questions will be taken very

seriously. We hope it provides us with an opportunity to grow together in understanding and commitment to our great God. It should be a warm and productive time together.

Come, and bring a friend. Welcome to all.





Q: John 20:22 says that Jesus “breathed the Holy Spirit” on his disciples on Easter evening, but Acts 2 says the Holy Spirit was not sent until Pentecost, 40 days after Easter. Which is right?

A: What a great question that shows very careful reading of the Bible! New Testament scholars have not settled on any one answer to it. Some suggest that John’s sources did not include the whole account of Pentecost, so he was simply unaware of it. Others respond that Pentecost was too well known—and too carefully described in Acts—for John *not* to have known about it! Some contend that Luke took a simple account of Jesus giving the Holy Spirit and expanded it into his full account of Pentecost. A fourth option is that John knew the same story Luke did, but wrote only his abbreviated account as a kind of summary version. All of those are plausible. None of them is definitive.

Factual discrepancies like this fascinate modern scholars and readers. People today focus mainly on facts, and generally equate facts with the truth. When there are two different versions of an event, our first instinct is to investigate to determine which one is “right” or “the truth.”

Ancient historians thought differently. They usually had only limited source material and few research options. They did not equate truth with facts, but related the facts as best they could in order to illustrate the larger truth of an event. They did not value precise accuracy on finer details. (In many cases, the Bible sets two slightly different versions of the same event side-by-side, with no effort to reconcile them or choose between them. The two creation accounts in Genesis 1 and 2 are a classic example.) What ancient authors prized was the *truth* of their message. They were more interested in what an event *meant* than in precisely *how* it happened.

Given that, common factors shared by different accounts are more significant than any discrepancies between them. The common factors are the “root story” of an event that was remembered and told to others. In this case, the common factors are 1) that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, 2) that he sent the Spirit just as promised, 3) that the Spirit was not sent until Jesus had died and risen again, and 4) that the power of the Holy Spirit transformed fearful disciples into fearless apostles. Those are the heart of the story in John and Luke, and they relate exactly the same *truth*, even though their facts differ.

May Digging Deeper Options

Mingle Box: A faith-based intergenerational event. Conversations between FLC confirmation students and adults on a variety of topics ranging from favorite Bible verses and stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God’s work in our lives. May 1 in the Faith Center at 9:15 a.m.

Ministers, Missionaries and Mystery Writers: Great Christian Authors You May Never Have Heard Of Countless Christian books are written each year, but the best authors are not always the best known. On May 8, 15 and 22, Faith’s pastors will discuss three of their favorite authors whose names may not be familiar, but whose works are first rate. Meeting in the Faith Center.

The Living Bible: An innovative, animated presentation of Biblical themes. This class will utilize the innovative videos produced by The Bible Project to tackle some key themes in Scripture. Meeting in Conference Room starting May 1.

Music Notes

The Hymn Sing

Music and the church are practically inseparable throughout the course of history. Hymnody, or the singing of hymns, in the Lutheran tradition, is almost as old as the Reformation and creation of the reformed church. It is noted in Volume 53 of *Luther’s Works* (riveting read for those interested) that Luther had begun the practice of singing hymns in 1523. In January 1524, the first hymnal, *Hymnal of Eight*, containing, you guessed it, eight hymns was published in German. Some of the hymns have survived to this day.

During J.S. Bach’s tenure in Leipzig, he cultivated a new approach to hymnody, writing a full cantata, or music for an entire service, every week of the year. This astonishing addition to the tradition was recognized during the time as parishioners and those with heightened music curiosities would travel on Tuesday nights, though perhaps others as well, to listen to Bach play hymns on one of the two organs in the sanctuary. They might have sung along if they could. Bach was a master improviser and would often transition the hymns into lengthy efforts of improvisation incorporating aspects of fugue and toccata techniques.

Following Bach’s Tuesday nights, the Lutheran church developed a more structured approach to this practice and began inviting the congregation to sing hymns on the traditional Tuesday evening. This offered an opportunity for those in attendance to practice singing the hymns, sometimes for hours on end, as a form of entertainment, worship, or practice.

This year marks the 3rd Annual Hymn Sing here at Faith Lutheran Church. The aim of this event is to relive the old tradition by singing favorite hymns accompanied by the Faith Singers and Ringers of Faith. All are invited to attend either to listen or sing, but above all, to worship the God who inspired such beautiful music. The program includes a variety of hymns young and old, prepared specifically for this event.

It will be held on May 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Faith Lutheran’s sanctuary, with a time of fellowship to follow immediately. This year we will also feature old hymnals on display for those in attendance to view. If you have an old hymnal you would wish to see on display, please contact Mike or the church office.

Best, Mike Lauer



The Music & Worship Committee of FLC would welcome volunteers to help in the following areas:

_____ Reading during Services

_____ Drama (in Costume)

_____ Special Music during Services

_____ Loading/Unloading Equipment Trailer for Summer Services in the Park

Please send your name, phone number and e-mail address to mikel@faithlc.com or wendym@faithlc.com or call Mike or Wendy at 320-587-2903.

If you are available to share your time with the congregation, please call today. We appreciate your consideration and thank you!



Senior Spotlight: LoAnn Hanson



To anyone who walks into the Faith Lutheran office on a Wednesday, you already know who LoAnn is. Hers is the first smiling face you would see since she has been volunteering as Office Assistant on Wednesday for the past three years. Or you might know her from the other positions she has held in Faith, some of them being Friday Bible study, Senior Task Force, Senior Potluck, Community meals, funerals, Church Council, Mentor, Sunday school teacher, or all around ambassador for Faith Lutheran.

This should come as no surprise, because LoAnn has been a member of Faith since she was 3 ½ years old. She was born in Nebraska and moved to Hutchinson with her parents in 1943. Her grandparents had been members of Faith since 1941, so it seems appropriate that LoAnn and her family join the same church. LoAnn shared a Vacation Bible School memory of sitting outside for story time. Her teacher reading those Bible stories under a tree was Pearl Betker. LoAnn made certain I know that her teacher wasn't much older than the class she was teaching. She remembers Sunday School being held in the church pews, class in one pew and the teacher in the pew ahead of them. There were classes in each corner of the church – short on Sunday school space even back then. Confirmation was memory work and lots of it. Before confirmation, a public examination was held in the church. She remembers family coming from Nebraska for that most important event.

When asked who influenced her faith in God the most, LoAnn listed her parents. Mom reading Bible stories and Dad making certain farm work did not get in the way of attending church and Sunday School. It was very important that LoAnn receive an attendance bar on her Sunday School pin every year. But she also remembers her Grandma Boll. It seems once LoAnn could drive, Grandma Boll always needed a ride to church and called LoAnn for that ride. Since she was at church delivering Grandma to services she may as well stay and attend. "I count on Him" was the answer LoAnn gave me when I asked her how her faith today helps in her daily life. "What do you have without faith" was her next statement.

LoAnn had a long list of things she likes about her church. I told her to give me the top three and they were the four pastors, the staff and the opportunities for all ages to grow in their church life. Her answer about changing anything in the church is one I hear from most older members. We miss the respect the church was given.

Coming This Month

Outdoor Worship Services

Sundays, May 29 - September 4 at 10:10 a.m.

In Library Square Park, Hutchinson

Tell your friends, bring a lawn chair, and worship the Lord!

In case of rain, meet in Faith's sanctuary.

First word at 8 a.m. will continue in the sanctuary
Sunday School and Digging Deeper will return in the fall.



Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)

Thank you to everyone who donated items and those that worked at the Rummage Sale! It's such a good feeling to clear out unused items, provide for the needs of other, enjoy each other as we work together, and support many worthy causes with our money and unsold items. It is truly a "Win/Win" event.



It is about time to do some spring cleaning in the kitchen at church. May 23 at 9 a.m. we will meet for cleaning, coffee and fellowship.

Welcome New Members!

Not Pictured
Brian and Ashley Duehn with Regan and Jack

Nathan & Laura Wendland, Juliann & Parker with Grace

Jeremy Terlinden Fiance of Mollie Schuetz

Karna Jereska Fiancee of Mike Blake

Gail Telecky






Barb Ryan

Joe Lee Fiance of Erin Eastman

Darrell Magruder

Andrew & Christian Weckwerth

Andi Sportelli

<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</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, May 17, 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.</p> 
<p>Community Meal Sunday, May 1 4-6 p.m.</p>	<p>Fare for All Delivery Thursday, May 26 4:30-5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Diaper Distribution takes place the last Tuesday of each month, May 31, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the CCM office. Donations are always welcome and can be left in either Common Cup Corner.</p> 	<p>The Summer Feeding Program kicks off on June 13 and runs through August 12. Meals are served at the VFW Park from 10:30-11:15 and the Rotary Park from 11:30-12:15, Monday-Friday.</p>	
 <p>Looking for used, road-ready bikes to be donate to Wheels of Mercy. This is a program organized and administered through Christ the King Lutheran Church. Help give someone a lift.</p>	<p>5K Walk/Run takes place on Saturday, May 7, at Masonic West River Park in Hutchinson. Registration forms are in the Common Cup Corner.</p>	<p>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.</p> 		

Senior Spotlight: Dodie Fenske



If you happen to be around the church building on a Thursday morning, about 9:00 a.m. or so, you might see a woman with a rag in one hand and a pail of cleaning products in the other. That's one of our super "Spit and Shiners," Delores Fenske. Of course no one calls her Delores. We all know her as "Dodie." She's been answering to that tag since she was very young. Some very young children couldn't seem to say Delores, so went with Dodie, and that has stuck to this day. You may not have known her real name, but we all know Dodie, a beloved Senior member of our Faith Lutheran family.

Dodie is one child of God who has caught the spirit of Jesus, who said, "I am among you as one who serves." Dodie knows how to serve others in a variety of ways. Besides the Spit and Shine detail, she loves to visit people. She makes her weekly rounds at Harmony River and other facilities. She monitors the health and activities of neighbors. People anticipate her appearance and love her visits. This writer knows that personally from his own encounters with those Dodie visits. She brings a caring spirit into their lives that mimics the spirit of Christ

Dodie was born in Fordville, North Dakota, west of Grand Forks, and lived there until age 17. She had eight siblings. Her father died when she was eight years old, so she needed to take on extra responsibilities. She worked in a creamery in Fordville at age 14 and loved the experience. She said her family was poor, but they didn't seem to know it. They had love in their family circle, and were close to each other.

Dodie came to Minnesota after marrying Dorn, her first husband. In Mound, Minnesota, they worked at several jobs before purchasing an apartment building, which they rented only to teachers. Later, they owned and operated a resort on Lake Mille Lacs. Unfortunately, Dorn had kidney problems that eventually necessitated dialysis. They were crushed by that trial; but Dodie turned it into an opportunity to take a 6-week course to enable her to do Dorn's dialysis at home. She did so for 11 years, when Dorn died.

Dodie and Dorn wintered in Arizona. After Dorn's death, Dodie met Arnie Fenske at a dance in Arizona. They were married in Hutchinson by Pastor Natwick. Some time after Arnie died, Dodie became a member of Faith Lutheran Church. She loves the congregation as a place where her faith is nurtured. She attends Bible studies and loves the way she feels "filled" when she comes to worship.

Dodie says her Christian lifestyle stems from significant people in her lives, beginning with her mother. She remembers going to Sunday worship as a very special time in the week, highlighted by the fact that she always changed out of the nice dress she wore to church immediately upon returning home. She had a pastor who walked a long distance to return a \$25.00 offering her father had given to the church, because he knew the family needed it more than the congregation. That made a deep impression on Dodie. She also spoke of a teacher at her school who wore "fancy" clothes. She was obviously not poor like the students, but they knew she loved them by the fact that during recess she played on the play ground with them, not worried about dirtying her nice duds. Great role models!

As Dodie looks back on her life, she pours out her gratitude to God. Her faith has been tested over and over, and still is. Yet she can say, "God puts everything in place for me." She adds, "I'm ready to go any time. God has a place ready for me"

Thanks, Dodie, for your simple testimony to the faithful and eternally gracious God we share.

Summer Fun Opportunities

Vacation Bible School



This year, VBS will run from June 27-30 from 4:15-8:15 p.m. for children 3 years old through 5th grade. We are again working together with Christ the King and they will host VBS there this year. The cost is \$10 per student and applications are available on our website at faithlc.com or in the office. There is also an opportunity to sign-up as an adult helper for part or all of the time. Please contact Josiah Frusti at 320-587-2093 or josiahf@faithlc.com with any questions.

Club 218

This is a non-profit summer day camp sponsored by FLC. It is designed for children 5-9 years old from low-income families. The program runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning June 13 and ending August 5. This program is offered at no cost to families and can serve 30-35 children. Family applications are due by May 15 and are available in the office and on the church website at faithlc.com.

Applications are also available for youth and adults who would like to volunteer to help with this program. Staff members will lead activities such as crafts, games, music, etc. They may also serve as small group leaders, help with meal serving and most importantly be a role model for the children. Applications for leaders are also due by May 15. Any questions about this program should be directed to Gladys Bonnema at 320-587-2093 or via e-mail to gladysb@faithlc.com.

Club 218

Let your life be a testimony

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 (San Diego, CA - 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:

- F**OLLOW JESUS
- A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
- I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE
- T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
- H**ELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED