

Faith Matters



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FEBRUARY 2016



Pastors Page

“In Accordance with the Scriptures”

That familiar phrase from the Nicene Creed declares that the events of Jesus’ life were prophesied in the Old Testament and that he fulfilled the promises God made to Israel. I often note in Bible studies that the earliest Christians didn’t have the New Testament; they were living it and writing it. They made the case for Jesus entirely on the basis of the Old Testament, the Scriptures of Israel.

As obvious as that is historically, Christians have often forgotten or neglected it. The Old Testament has not been read or studied nearly as much as the New Testament, yet it is hard to understand the New Testament fully without knowing the Scriptures (Old Testament) on which it is based.

The season of Lent starts this month and our Lenten theme will be *“In Accordance with the Scriptures: Christ in the Old Testament.”* It will explore Old Testament texts that point clearly to Christ and show how the course of his life and what he accomplished were foreshadowed by God through Israel’s experience. Again this year, we are joining with our sister churches, Christ the King and St. Matthew’s, Fernando, for our Lenten services. It is a great blessing to share this season with them.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, with services of Holy Communion at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. On the following five Wednesdays, there will be one service at 6:30 p.m. Lent then concludes with Holy Week and Easter.

Also during Lent, there will be another small-group study, building on the Cross† Fit small groups that met last fall. Read more about this great opportunity on p. 2 of this newsletter.

Lent is the holiest time of the year. As we follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb, we enter into the deepest mystery and central promise of the Christian faith. Mark your calendars now to worship on Wednesdays as well as Sundays during Lent and explore how Jesus’ suffering and death truly were “in accordance with the Scriptures.”

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott



RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
KDUZ 1260 AM

TV BROADCAST
CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAY 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

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Imagine Capital Campaign

It has been just over a year since the *Imagine* capital campaign launched and the response from the congregation in this first year exceeded all expectations! The church made so much progress on the mortgage in this last year that it calls for a celebration. Watch for more information coming in February as we all continue to *Imagine* together the future God has in store for Faith Lutheran!

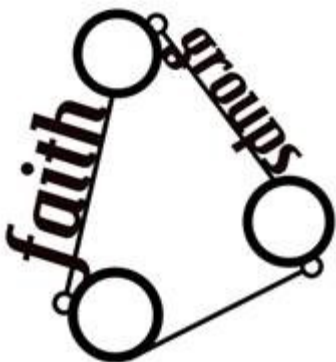
Faith-full Finances

In last month's *Faith Matters*, this space (written in mid-December) noted that Faith Lutheran still faced a large deficit in the General Fund, with the hope that the gap might be closed by year's end. Was it ever! The last two weeks of the year saw an amazing outpouring of support for Faith's ministry that not only closed that gap, but even surpassed the total amount needed.

Thank God! Thank You! Your continued investment in this ministry God has entrusted to us allows it to move forward boldly, with sufficient resources to meet all the opportunities before us. The 2015 Annual Report records the many ways, traditional and innovative, that Faith Lutheran is proclaiming the Gospel and "Building FAITH: Follow, Announce, Invoke, Teach and Help." Please continue your faithful support of God's work in and through Faith Lutheran Church in this new year.

Thank You, Leaders

At the Annual Meeting on January 31, a large group of new leaders will be elected to join an equally large number of leaders who are still serving. As these new leaders take office, we bid farewell to many people who have served faithfully for two or four years on the Ministry Teams and/or the Church Council. These *elected* leaders, however, only scratch the surface of the dozens of others who serve in a wide variety of ways to keep the ministry of Faith moving forward. **Thank you** to all of you who faithfully invest your time and ability in the work of our church. It couldn't happen without you!



Small groups are back!

Were you a part of a Cross†Fit group last fall? Many people enjoyed that experience. It's time for another round of intimate conversations about faith. Join a "Faith Group" during Lent this year and dive deeper into our Lenten theme. These Faith Groups will operate similar to the Cross†Fit groups, with lessons on DVD or YouTube, which allows groups to be flexible with their meeting time and yet all groups can be learning the same material. If you are interested in participating in, or even facilitating, a Faith Group, contact Marsha Schmit.

stump the pastor

Q: Who decided which 66 books would be included in the Bible? How do we know they are inspired by God and other books were not?

A: There were many Jewish and Christian writings in the ancient world that were well-known, but not included in the canon (authoritative list) of the Old or New Testaments. The Old Testament canon was finalized by Jewish rabbis around A.D. 90 (although most of the books were already widely recognized as Scriptural). The New Testament canon was finally set in the 3rd or 4th century, although most of those books had also long been recognized as Scriptural.

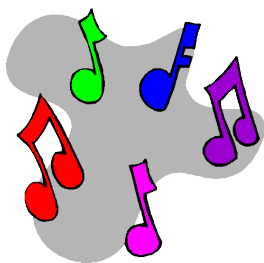
When we consider how the canon was formed, there are some important points to keep in mind. One is that there was no group or person who just “picked and chose” which books belonged in the Bible and which did not. In each case, it was the

result of a long process of evaluation by the people of Israel, for the Old Testament, and the Christian church, for the New Testament.

Secondly, Bruce Metzger, a great New Testament scholar, has noted a really important distinction. The books in the Bible are not considered to be inspired by God *because* they were included in the canon. They were included in the canon *because* they were recognized as being inspired by God. The quality and integrity of the writing made the difference, not some arbitrary decision.

Finally, as Christians, we believe this entire process was informed and guided by the Holy Spirit. These were not purely human decisions, but those who decided were themselves inspired, so that God could use the books that were included to do His saving work faithfully and effectively among us.

That is finally how we know the Bible is God’s Word. It works in people’s hearts and minds to grant faith, preserve hope and reveal the gracious reality of God’s love for us and all people.



This spring—or Winter Act II—we have exciting things happening at the church, and specifically in the music department. We’re always looking for new choir members and ringers, so if you’re interested, please contact Mike Lauer, or just show up to rehearsal! Ringers meet Mondays at 5:30, Singers meet Wednesday at 6:00. See you there.

Music Notes

Another reason to join the Faith Singers is Faith Lutheran and Christ the King will be teaming up on Prayers at the Cross to be sung on Good Friday at each Church’s service.

Aside from our ensembles there are plenty of special music opportunities during Lent as well as additional opportunities.

There will be another Reader’s Theater at one of the Lenten services, there will be the Last Supper, which we need a handful of gentlemen to make happen, and we will be having a Compline style Easter Vigil on the Saturday before Easter, which is March 26th for those marking your calendars.

Don’t hesitate to join the musical community, whether a part of ensemble, leading worship with a team, or playing a special music. If you need help picking a song, rehearsing your music, or accompaniment, do not fret (music joke), we will take care of you!

Seniors' Scene

As Dorothy and Dick Desens were completing their plans to travel to India I asked them to remember us in the frigid Midwest while they basked in 80+ degrees in India. More importantly, I reminded them of their appointment with Seniors' Potluck on **Thursday, February 25th**:

They had not forgotten; in fact are relishing the possibility of sharing fresh news about K. K. Alavi and his son, Abdul, in their vital and impressive mission among Muslims in Kerala, India. There is so much going on in their lives and ministry. It all speaks powerfully about how God moves among His people to bring the Gospel into human lives, to save them in Jesus, and turn their lives into simple and purposeful witnesses to those around them. It can really inspire our own witness to our Lord Jesus.

We are also aware of how much Pr. Paul Knudson involves his time, interest and life in mission work. He will be on the program as well, with his amazing sense of compassion, effort and wisdom in moving the Gospel forward through Faith Lutheran, Augustana District, LCMC, and individual donors. No secret—mission takes money. We are fortunate to have gifts lovingly and sacrificially given for the sake of Christ and His saving love.

Come to **Seniors' Potluck** on **Thursday, February 25th**, beginning at **12:00 noon**, for one of the best times of your life. Please....bring a friend, someone who needs the warmth of love we experience in this fellowship. Member or non-member...doesn't matter. All are welcome!



Faith Lutheran Church Budget vs. 2015 Actual

Complete Financials available in office	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>Jan-Dec 2015 Actual</u>	<u>2016 Proposed Budget</u>
Offering Revenue	706,694	727,584	724,694
Ministry Revenue	<u>55,525</u>	<u>54,328</u>	<u>51,505</u>
Total Revenue	762,219	781,912	776,199
Ministry for Missions/Benevolence	70,650	72,011	72,750
Ministry for Discipleship	45,325	39,117	45,825
Ministry for Outreach	20,050	18,218	19,300
Ministry for Care	3,350	3,249	3,850
Ministry for Worship	8,450	10,353	10,090
Ministry for Admin.—property	108,250	116,738	113,166
Ministry for Admin.—personnel	506,044	498,161	511,118
Contingency Expense	100.	0	100
Debt Serviced	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Expenses	<u>762,219</u>	<u>757,847</u>	<u>776,199</u>
		24,065	0

Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)



Thank you to everyone who helped clean the church kitchen on January 26. Plans are to purchase more forks, wooden stackable high chairs and a storage cabinet to store some of the kitchen clutter in.

The FLCW will be serving “Lutran” community meal on Sunday, March 6 complete with homemade hotdishes, salad, pickles, buns and bars. A sign up poster will be placed outside the sanctuary closer to the date for food and help. If you haven’t been a part of this event, this is an opportunity to show your love and care to others.

We are making progress on lining up funeral coordinators for a 2-3 month interval, and have a list of those willing to be supervisors. Contact Bobbi Knudson (587-2227) if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

Keep collecting items for the rummage sale that will be coming up April 28-30.

2016 Funeral Service Groups:

Faith Lutheran Church members have been alphabetically divided into the following 10 groups and assigned to the following callers. You may be called to work at a funeral lunch.

Please make note of your assigned caller and volunteer your time when you are able.

Caller:	Groups:
Frances Olson	Adamek, Michael & Lisa~Brigden, Sherri
Sherry Schuetz	Brinkman, Dan & Deaun~Dressen, Darrell & Pam
Patsy Amundson	Duering, Michelle~Grorud, Scott & Shelly
Kathy Bemis	Gruhlke, Tom & Cindy~Johnson, Eric & Trina
Helen Kieper	Johnson, Ralph & Geri~Larson, Glenn & Cathy
Jan McClure	Larson, Keith & Jamee~Nelson, Travis & Tamara
Jeraldine Rohrbach	Neubarth, Darrin & Kari~Ramirez, Evelyn
Joy May	Rath, Donald & Renata~Schultze, Barbara
Kay Karg	Schumacher, Derrick & Katie~Uecker, Craig & Cynthia
Maria Weikle	Uecker, Ryan & Misty~Zuehlke, Lisa

Important February 2016 Dates

<p style="text-align: center;">February 7</p> <p>Installation of Ministry Team and Council Members (at all three services) Community Meal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 14</p> <p>Faith Family Fun Pool Party Valentine's Day Dinner</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 20</p> <p>Mugs and Muffins</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">February 10</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Services at 12 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 16</p> <p>Ministry Team and Council Meetings</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 24</p> <p>Lenten Service</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">February 17</p> <p>Lenten Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February 25</p> <p>Seniors' Potluck</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">February 27</p> <p>Breakfast and Bibles</p>

Snowbirds Note

If you have not received your year-end statement from Faith Lutheran Church please contact the church office. A number of the statements have been returned by the post office marked "Temporarily Gone." Those statements are being held in the office until you come to pick them up.

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.'



Community Meal served by Church in the World team
Sunday, February 7
4-6 p.m.

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

Glencoe
925 13th Street East
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-5511

Fare for All distribution will be on
Thursday, Feb. 25
from 4:30-5:30 @
CCM

5K Walk/Run will take place on Saturday, May 7, at Masonic West River Park in Hutchinson. Registration forms will be available in the church office, CCM office, or on the CCM website.



COMMON CUP 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Clients served at the two offices (Hutchinson and Glencoe) Approximately 1350 individuals

Total Income for 2015- \$220,895 (Contributions from churches/individuals/area businesses/United Way/HAH Auxillary / Thrivent Financial/I.J. Burich)

Total Expenses for 2015- \$164,649 Amount of individual or family help: Lodging \$2242 Car Repair:\$887 Groceries: \$1628 Misc \$321 Utilities: \$12,243 Auto Fuel \$3156 Transportation: \$1403 Clothing \$680 Rent Assist/Dep: \$7185 Health/Medical \$378 Household supplies: \$471

Community Outreach Programs Include – Monthly Diaper Distribution–Approximately 70 children served each month; Warm Coat Distribution (served 750 this year); School Supply Distribution (531 this year)

The full report is available in the Common Cup Corners located by the church entrances.

Thoughts and Prayers

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

- 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 (Pensacola, FL - 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 Hedine)



Remember our Faith members in nursing homes & health care centers

Birchwood

Doris Strand

Cedar Crest – Cosmos

Patricia Lambert

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Nadine Dalin

Cokato Manor

Patricia Paulson

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

Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Dorothy Christensen

Betty Garberich

Ruth McKay

Lucille Yukel

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Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
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Keith Lange, Maintenance		
Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net	

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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