

Faith Matters

Pastors' Page

FEBRUARY 2017

Although the Super Bowl has now moved into February, I think the month remains best known for Valentine's Day. It is a celebration of romance, love and, especially in the case of children, friendship. In our coarsening culture, the celebration of Valentine's Day is also now adorned with a fair amount of cruder imagery that tends to reduce love to mere physical desire.

I wonder, though, if people still know that Valentine's Day is a Christian festival. It used to be called *Saint* Valentine's Day, but the connection between February 14 and its namesake saint has weakened considerably. There really was a St. Valentine, although the stories around him seem to be about two different people, with different dates and reasons for his sainthood. He most likely lived in the 3rd century in Rome and is connected to romance because he helped Christian couples get married even though it was forbidden by the Roman Emperor. There is also a story that on the day he was martyred, because he would not renounce his faith in Christ, he wrote a letter to a young girl whose sight he had restored and signed it, "your Valentine"—which is why we still sign Valentine cards that way.

Only in the Middle Ages did St. Valentine's day begin to be cast in the romantic terms as we know it today. Originally, it was focused more on the gift of marriage, on Christian love for our neighbor, serving those in need and the faith of a martyr who died rather than renounce his Lord. As we celebrate love and romance on St. Valentine's Day, that older emphasis reminds us of the true nature of love, especially God's love—self-giving, seeking the good of others and compassionate to those in need.

I John 4 declares, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God... In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another." That is the true source, nature and purpose of love, even the love we celebrate on St. Valentine's Day.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

Outgoing 2016 Ministry Team & Church Council Members

If you see these people around please take a moment to thank them for sharing their gifts and talents with Faith Lutheran Church by serving on a Ministry Team or the Church Council: Shawn Anderson, Dan Brinkman, Dick Desens, Shari Dorival, Wade Eastman, Diane Enstad, Laurie Gelschus, Shelly Grorud, Kent Jacobsen, Ross Jurek, Mary Ann Kennedy, Connie Kurtzweg, Michelle Leyde, Al Liepold, Michelle Malchow, Pat May, Jake McDonald, Linda McGraw, Lou Ann Perschau, Kelly Pischke, Janelle Reid, Christine Ruppert, Jon Wehler and

Thank You!



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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.

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Stump the pastor

Q: Why did Jesus heal people and do miracles?

Wasn't it enough that he preached and taught?

A: This question from a young adult was particularly interesting, because I think many more people ask it the opposite way. "Wasn't it enough that Jesus healed people and cared for the poor? Did he really need to do

(or do we need to pay attention to) all his preaching and teaching?" Especially today, it is often implied that the heart of Jesus' ministry was to care for the suffering and needy, while the rest of the Gospel is secondary or even optional.

But this question has the emphasis right. In Mark 6, we read that Jesus was rejected by the people of his home town of Nazareth because of his preaching. Then Mark concludes, "He could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hand on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief." Here, Jesus' preaching is clearly seen as more significant than his ability to heal, and the greater problem is not illness, but unbelief.

Later in that same chapter, Mark records that, as Jesus "went ashore, he saw the great crowds; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things." Jesus' compassion for (literally, "suffering with") the crowds led him to "teach them." Later, he also provided a miraculous feast of bread and fish, but only because his teaching had gone on too long to send them away hungry. So he was concerned for their physical well-being. It just took second place to their need to hear the Gospel.

These passages suggest the answer to the question. Jesus healed people because that was their most immediate need, and he was concerned for their well-being. But healing the sick, feeding the hungry and other miracles were not ends in themselves. They just freed people to hear the good news that delivered them from far greater problems—forgiveness of sin, resurrection from death and rescue from eternal condemnation. Until their urgent causes of worry were addressed, they would have had a hard time listening to the greater promises Jesus declared.

Still today, Christians follow Jesus' example. We address human suffering and physical need, but not as the only or even the most important gift we have to give. Instead, we seek to alleviate suffering so life can flourish and people, freed from pressing physical need, can hear the good news of Christ's saving love for them and the whole world.

Important Dates

February 1 - 9 a.m. Faith Quilters

February 5 - 4 p.m. Free Community Meal

February 9 - 10 a.m. Faith serves High School Ecumenical Meal

February 10 - 5 p.m. 56er's Lock-in

February 12 - 9:05 a.m. First Communion Instruction

for 6th grade students begins

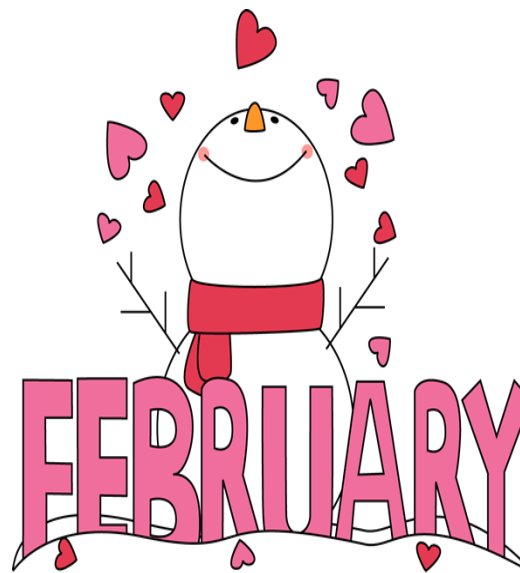
5 p.m. Valentine's Day Dinner

February 18 - 9:30 a.m. Mugs and Muffins

February 21 - 6 p.m. Ministry Teams and Church Council Meetings

February 23 - 12:00 p.m. Seniors' Potluck

February 26 - 5:00 p.m. Faith Family Fun Bowling



Christian Life Management

Have you ever heard of Christian Life Management (CLM)? Likely not, since I just made it up! I think, though, that CLM is a way to understand what is meant by the more common term “stewardship.” In the church, stewardship has too often been portrayed—or understood—simply as raising money to meet the church budget, but it implies much more than that.

Biblical, stewardship refers to how we care for and manage everything that God entrusts to us. That includes our bodies and their health, our relationships in family and community, our work and other vocations and our possessions. In I Corinthians 4:1, St. Paul even says, “Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and *stewards* of God’s mysteries.” So, CLM also includes how we tend to the gifts of the Gospel and sacraments, for our own spiritual growth and in witness to others.

One reason that stewardship tends to focus only on our possessions is that it is a difficult part of our lives to manage in line with our faith. Money and wealth are so necessary for daily life, so powerful in giving us a sense of ability or security, that they can easily replace God as our source of hope for the future. That is exactly why it is so important to include our possessions in our CLM, thinking of them in light of our Christian faith and seeking to use them according to God’s will. In coming months, we will delve further into the Bible’s call to be good stewards, because, as Paul goes on to say in I Corinthians 4:2, “It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

SENIORS’ SCENE

Sometimes your mind is so full of questions for which you can’t come up with answers. What’s the weather going to be next week isn’t one of them. You have some inkling about that because of your arthritis, right?? Even meteorologists might have some answers about tomorrow’s temperatures.

BUT what about having someone help senior citizens get the best supplemental Medicare insurance? Or where can I get better prices on prescription drugs? Maybe I have a symptom, but I don’t know if I should visit the clinic; I don’t want to go to the doctor all the time.

My family is asking me to check into assisted living to see if that’s something I need. But what does it cost, and what determines if I need it or not? Maybe I should consider in-home nursing assistance?

What about scams? So many questions. Where can I go for answers?

One helpful agency that has been a life saver for many is **Senior LinkAge Line**. Never heard of it? You heard someone mention it, but don’t really know what it is, or if it can help you?

There are two ways to see if Senior LinkAge Line is for you. If you have a computer you can go to: www.seniorlinkageline.com. If you don’t like computers try the telephone: **1-800-333-2433** (Monday through Friday).

Here’s a third possibility: come to **SENIORS’ POTLUCK on February 23**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**.

We’ll have a representative from Senior LinkAge Line present to speak to us about how we could benefit from their services.

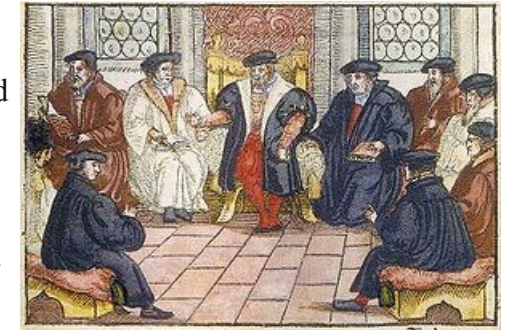
Don’t miss it. We’ll see you there. I’ll bet someone you could bring along would like to know about Senior LinkAge Line too.

Digging Deeper Options

*Pick a class and plug in. Dig a little deeper into your faith and see how you can grow!
These classes run Sundays, from February 5 - February 26 at 9:15 a.m.*

“The Reformation’s Supporting Cast”

Most Lutherans know something about Martin Luther and the amazing ways God used him to reform the Church, but Luther did not accomplish that single-handedly. He had many gifted colleagues and there were other reformers who were inspired by him. As part of the Reformation track in Digging Deeper this year, this class will lift up some lesser-known, but key Reformation leaders such as Philip Melancthon, Justus Jonas, John Bugenhagen, Huldrych Zwingli and John Calvin. Learn more about these and other fascinating members of the “supporting cast” that aided or followed Martin Luther.



An Exploration of
Biblical Wisdom
Literature



“Wise up!”

Exploring the Bible’s Wisdom Literature. This 4-week class will examine the Wisdom books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs using a new set of videos from the Bible Project. Come learn from these creative and informative videos and good discussion!

“Teaching the Faith to Your Family”

“Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray.”

Proverbs 22:6 Have you ever wondered how you could better share the Gospel with your children and grandchildren? This class will look at ways to share that Faith with the youngest members of your family, focusing on a different age group each week.



Did Your Hear? \$9,089.50 Was Raised for Hunger in November

Thank you one and all for this marvelous response. What will your generosity do?

Common Cup received \$3,181.33 to assist their efforts in providing children in our schools with weekend food. Most of us cannot imagine this is a need, but your generosity shows you do.

Samaritan’s Purse will use its \$3,181.33 to meet critical needs for people devastated by Hurricane Matthew, now some months ago. Great numbers of people in affected island countries face desperate needs for food and to stave off disease.

Friends of Madagascar Mission will use its \$1,376.64 to address food needs of those facing famine, including patients at the Ejeda Hospital not only dealing with illness, but hunger.

Our Ethiopian partners at the Tabor Congregation will use its \$1,350 to work with their outreach center close to a refugee camp on the South Sudan border to share the gift of food to those desperate in their displacement from their homes.

We have been blessed to be a blessing. Along the way our spirits are blessed in return.

Music Notes

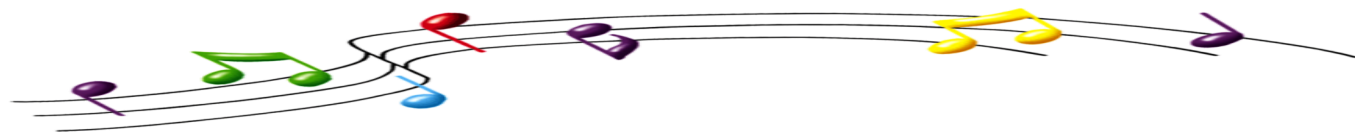
The music department at Faith is ready to hit the ground running in 2017. Both Faith Singers and Ringers of Faith will present music at Sunday services in January, and they will appear regularly in the coming months. We always welcome new members to either ensemble, and if you're interested I encourage you to attend one of our rehearsals. The bell choir meets on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30, and the vocal choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00. Rehearsals take place in the music room (straight down the hall as you enter the main office doors, then left after the row of pastors' portraits). We've got some very exciting music planned for both groups, and we would love to have you join us!


Our first Compline service of the new year will take place Sunday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m.! Beginning in March, Compline will resume its place on the first Sunday of each month. Come for a time of praise and prayer through music, Scripture, and a message.

FLY Band is off to a great start in the new year, and has been leading the youth in worship on Wednesday nights. We are digging deeper into the craft and philosophies of worship leading and using our musical gifts for God's glory.



In this transitional period in the music department, we are seeking both to expand our pool of musicians and to reconnect with those who have served in the past. Regarding Spiritual gifts, 1st Corinthians 14:26 says, "When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up." The music director and worship leaders are by no means the only ones qualified to select and present music in our services, and if you have the gift of music we would love to hear from you. Please contact Paul Cravens (paulc@faithlc.com) about special music opportunities. Additionally, we are seeking musicians to participate regularly in our contemporary ensembles (such as the Compline Band). These groups typically operate with very little rehearsal, so adaptability and a willingness to prepare your part in advance are critical. We are especially looking for people to play guitar (acoustic or electric), bass, and drums, but all musicians (voice, percussion, strings, woodwinds, or brass) are more than welcome.



 <p>Common Cup Ministry</p>	<p>Hutchinson 105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2 Hutchinson, MN 55350 320-587-2213 Website: www.common-cup.org</p>	<p>Glencoe 925 13th Street East Glencoe, MN 55336 320-864-5511</p>	<p>Community Meal @ FLC Sunday, January 8 4-6 p.m.</p>
	<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>		

COMMON CUP 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
 Clients served at the two offices (Hutchinson and Glencoe) Approximately 2,680 individuals
Total Income for 2016- \$201,097 (Contributions from churches/individuals/area businesses/United Way/Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars/Grants/Fundraisers)
Total Expenses for 2016- \$184,806 Amount of individual or family help: Lodging \$3,904; Car Repair \$259; Groceries \$1,775; Misc \$126; Utilities \$8,607; Auto Fuel \$2,885; Transportation \$1,381; Clothing \$471; Rent Assist/Dep: \$5,514; Health/Medical \$985; Household supplies: \$266; Insurance \$325; Telephone \$234; Daycare Expense \$50
Community Outreach Programs Include — Monthly Diaper Distribution—Approximately 70 children served each month; Warm Coat Distribution (served 550 this year); School Supply Distribution (510 this year); Backpack program (212 each week)
 The full report is available in the Common Cup Corners located by the church entrances.

Fare for All distribution will be on **Thurs., February 23** from 4-5 p.m. at CCM

5K Walk/Run will take place on Saturday, May 2, at Masonic West River Park in Hutchinson. Registration forms will be available in the church office, CCM office, or on the CCM website.



FLCW Thank You and Notes

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the church kitchen and to everyone who donated food and helped with the Mugs and Muffins Spa Day.

Save the Date—and Save Your Stuff: The FLCW Annual Rummage Sale will be April 27-29 this year. Donating to this event is a great way to support women's ministries at Faith and clean your house at the same time.

Mugs and Muffins

Saturday, February 18 at 9:30 a.m. ~ Michelle Schoolmeesters (sister of Sue Alrick) will be coming to share her story with you.



Thrivent Action Plans

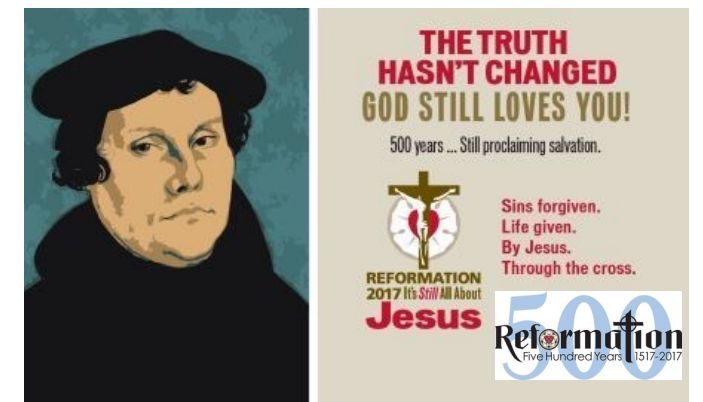
Have you heard of Thrivent Actions Plans? If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you are eligible to sponsor two each year. It is a simple online application that you need to fill out. Then Thrivent will send you a \$250 card to use as "Seed Money" for an event or activity. This money can be used for fundraising events, educational events and other church/community activities. This year, we will run a monthly list of different opportunities at Faith that could use sponsorship. If you are a Thrivent Member, please contact the office if you are willing to sponsor one of these events. Please note that it can take a couple of weeks for this to be processed through Thrivent, so you will want to apply early for these events.

Coming up in February and March: Community Meals, Hunger Free Fruit, Faith Family Fun Activities, Mugs and Muffins, Breakfast and Bibles, 56er's Lock-in and High School Free Lunch.



New Lenten Faith Group Study! "What Does This Mean?" The Reformation Gospel

Even if you haven't been a part of a Faith Group, join one this Lent as we dig into the Reformation Gospel! Watch for sign-ups coming soon! You can also contact Marsha for more information on how to get plugged in: 320-587-2093 or marshas@faithlc.com.



Thoughts and Prayers

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



- Lance Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Quantico, VA - son of Dawn Bos)
- 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 (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son of Lenny and Patti Rutledge)
- TSgt Patrick Scharn (Air Force, Qatar - husband of Elizabeth Scharn)
- 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

Bernice Vorbeck

Cokato Manor

Patricia Paulson

Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

Harmony River

James Boll

Valerie Fimon

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Harold Sanken

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Don Fitzgerald

Betty Garberich

Ruth McKay

Lucille Yukel

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Standing
firm in the
faith for
500 years!

