

Faith Lutheran Church  
335 Main Street South  
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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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

# Faith Matters

## Pastors Page

How are those resolutions going? I hope, by the time you read this, you're still going strong on those New Year's resolutions. It's possible you are still formulating some resolutions for 2016. If so, I want to propose one to you:

Worship!

As we open 2016 with the season of Epiphany, remembering those wise men who came to worship at Jesus' feet, let's follow suit! Face it, when it comes to worship, we can make a lot of excuses!

- “Sunday's my day to sleep in!”
- “I have a tournament!”
- “We have a cabin.”
- “It's hard to get the kids dressed and out the door in time”
- “My kids don't sit still”

Maybe because worship is every week, we fall into the trap of thinking we can skip a Sunday. But then one Sunday becomes two Sundays, two Sundays become two months, and so on...

Unfortunately, when we regularly miss worship, we're missing out on a lot of what God has for us:

- The forgiveness of sins
- The good news of the Gospel
- A chance to give
- An opportunity to respond to God's goodness in song and prayer
- A community of believers
- Not to mention opportunities to learn in Digging Deeper, Confirmation and Sunday School

I ran into an article on Crosswalk.com that proposed “Five stages toward making worship a habit.” Here are some of the suggestions on how to approach regular worship attendance:

1. Pray- Pray that God would make this a priority in your life and help you to do it
2. Brainstorm- What are the advantages and disadvantages to making worship regular? I think you'll find the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Keep this list as a reminder.

3. Plan- What things hinder your regular worship efforts? If its time, plan ahead- maybe lay out clothes the night before. If its sports or events talk to coaches- explain the situation and your priorities.
4. Give it a shot- Set a short-term goal for yourself- maybe 3- times a month for three months, or every Sunday for a month. Then evaluate how it went.

It's worth it! He's worth it!

By the way, some of you may have just tried this. In September we issued a three-month worship challenge. If you took the challenge we'd love to hear how it went!

See you in church!  
Pastor Dave



335 Main St. S  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093  
Email: wendym@faithlc.com

JANUARY 2016

We are on the Web:  
[Faithlc.com](http://Faithlc.com)



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

There is so much good news to report about the Imagine campaign and the loan on the new building:

- our lender, Thrivent Financial, just lowered our interest rate by 1.5 points, to just 3.25%! That alone shaved two years off the life of the loan (now at 2026 instead of 2035).
- the lower rate will save thousands of dollars in interest expense; two-thirds of each month's payment is now principal.
- during 2015, the principal amount of the mortgage was reduced by \$500,000.
- it is not impossible that the loan could be paid off by the time of Faith's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, although that would require making a large extra principal payment each year.

**Thank You** for your generous investments in this great ministry space!

Let's keep pursuing the goal of paying off this loan as quickly and efficiently as we can.

*"Could Faith pay off the 20 year loan in just 10 years?"*

## Faith-full Finances

At the time of this writing, there are still two weeks left in 2015 and, as is usually the case, Faith Lutheran still needs an enormous outpouring of offerings (\$80,000-\$90,000) to meet all our ministry expenses for the year and get back to the fund balance we had at the start of 2015. Based on how the congregation has responded in

recent years, we are hopeful that most of that amount will end up being given. That generous support from the church is so appreciated and so vital for our church to fulfill the ministry God has entrusted to us. As we anxiously wait to see how this year's giving turns out, please know that, as your

offerings support Faith and a variety of other ministries here and around the world, each dollar helps "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)

## Monthly Financial Update

	Actual YTD 12/17/15	Budget 2015	Budget Remaining	2014 2014	2014-2015 Difference	
General Fund Income	675,478.05	762,219.00	86,740.95	651,401.46	24,076.59	
General Fund Expenses	707,362.23	762,219.00	54,856.77	659,248.32	48,113.91	
General Fund Net	(31,884.18)			(7,846.86)	(24,037.32)	
Income/Loss				2015	2014	
Average weekly giving needed to reach budget	\$14,658.06		Property	110,404.96	103,788.60	6,616.36
Average monthly giving needed to reach budget	\$63,518.25		Personnel	457,560.84	440,610.28	16,950.56
						23,566.92

### Imagine Capital Campaign

Pledges through 2017= \$756,515

Amount Received = \$447,745

# 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)
- Justin Olsen (Behring, Kuwait - son of Sharon Grivna and Jerry Olsen)
- SFC Guy Sing (Korea - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
- LTJG Brett Stadskev (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)
- Col. Rob Skaar ( Duluth Air National Guard) son of Dave & Marian Skaar

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

Joanne Thomas - Apartments

### Glencoe Nursing Home

Kathryn Wendlandt

### Harmony River

Millie Blake

Valerie Fimon

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Otto Streseman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

### Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Delores Saar

### Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

### Westwood (Watertown)

Eleanor Lack

### Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Dorothy Christensen

Betty Garberich

Ruth McKay

Lucille Yukel

Faith Lutheran Church INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com		
<b>Pastors</b>		
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
<b>Staff</b>		
Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com	
Gladys Bonnema, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	gladysb@faithlc.com	
Josiah Frusti, Director of Children & Family Ministry	josiahf@faithlc.com	
Mike Lauer, Director of Music and Worship	mikel@faithlc.com	
Wendy Mayland, Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com	
Diane Pedersen, Finance Coordinator	dianep@faithlc.com	
Keith Lang, Maintenance		
Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net	



## Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)



Thanks to everyone who contributed and helped in any way with the FLCW projects in 2015. This year, \$5,000 was given to the church general fund and \$1,000 was given to the Imagine Campaign.

Marsha Schmit will be the temporary funeral coordinator with seven volunteer supervisors as we have not been able to find someone to fill this position yet. We thank Darlene Larson for her years of service in this role.

The dates for the 2016 Rummage Sale have been set for April 28, 29 and 30. Note this date has been changed from what was originally announced to allow for more snowbirds to return and lend a hand. Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, April 25. Because Faith has limited storage space, we can not accept donations before that day.

Officers for 2016 have been elected and they are:

Co-Presidents: Diane Enstad and Judy Flemming

Secretary: Dorothy Desens

Treasurer: Julie Wendland

Sunshine Coordinators: Michelle Meis and  
Bobbi Knudson

### Fun Facts about Faith

1. Our first quarterly payment from Waste Management for the Cardboard and Paper Recycling was \$127. Keep bringing those things in and remember to separate them and put them in the correct bins.
2. Faith donated 1,425 lbs. of food to the food shelf through the Fill the Boat project. That is up from 1,000 lbs. last year. In addition, there was another 64 lbs. donated after the boat was emptied.
3. Julie Renkes won for best Chili and Diane Enstad won for the best Soup at the Chili/Soup Cook-off. Well done, ladies! Thank you to all who brought food and helped set up and serve!
4. Mugs and Muffins is a new Women's Ministry that started in 2015. It meets the third Saturday of every month at 9:30 in the morning. It has been very well received and will continue in 2016.
5. Breakfast and Bibles is a new Men's Ministry (without all the fluff) that started near the end of 2015. This group meets on Saturday mornings also and the dates vary from month to month so watch, for bulletin updates. The next meeting is 9 a.m. on January 9th.
6. Faith Family Fun continues to be a great time of fellowship and fun for members of all ages. In 2016, watch for lots of exciting events taking place on the second Sunday afternoon of each month.

## Faith Lutheran Quilters

This is a busy group that has been hard at work in 2015. They have made and distributed 99 quilts along with many rugs, baby blankets, pillow case dresses, sewing kits, scarves, stocking caps and booties, afghans, newborn kits, bed pads and wheel chair covers. This group meets once a month to work together but many of these ladies also work at home on their own time. They would like to extend a thank you to all of you who have donated supplies, the Hutchinson Hospital for their donations of old sheets and blankets and Dorothy Desens for her many trips to the cities and other locations to deliver these finished products. Donations go to Lutheran World Relief, Green Lake Bible Camp, Slumberland's Bed Donation Program, Orphan Grain Train, Common Cup, People Serving People, Global Human Ministries, Homeless Shelters, the VA and the DAV.

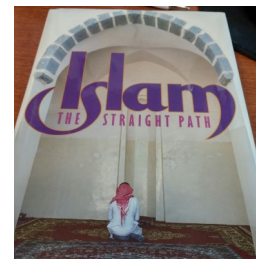
As they are preparing to start 2016 they are again looking for donations of supplies. Primarily they are looking for sheets and scraps of material. If you have anything you wish to get rid of please drop it off in the office with a note that it is for Diane Ferguson and the quilters.



## stump the pastor

*Q: Who were the Wise Men who visited Jesus?*

*A: This is a great question, but very hard to answer. The visit of the Wise Men is recorded in Matthew 2, but it gives very little information about them. All Matthew tells us is that "magi from the East" appeared in Jerusalem. Magi were priests from the area of modern Iraq and Iran, who studied astrology along with spiritual issues. Matthew does not say who they were, how many there were or how exactly they concluded that the bright "star rising in the East" meant that a new "King of the Jews" had been born. We only know that, when they finally reached Jesus, they were "overwhelmed" with joy (literally, "they rejoiced greatly with great joy") and offered gifts of "gold, frankincense and myrrh."*



## Digging Deeper

January 10 - February 7

### **"Islam: What Does It Teach? What Are Its Goals?"**

The rise of Islam, and particularly the jihadist terrorist movements it has inspired, is one of the dominant issues in the world today. What does this major world religion teach? What about it inspires so much violence in so many places? How can Christians share the good news of Christ with Muslims? Come to learn some basic information about this pressing issue. This class will be meeting in the Faith Center.

From there, Christian imagination has worked overtime to fill in the gaps, suggesting that they were kings, that there were three of them (because of the three named gifts) and even providing their names: Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior, but none of that is in the Gospel. It is important to distinguish what the Bible actually says from the fascinating traditions that grew up around it.

The fact that Matthew did not tell us more about the magi indicates that he wanted to keep the focus on Jesus. That these foreigners would travel so far to see him and present him with gifts fit for a king proclaims that Jesus came as Lord and Savior, not just of Israel, but of the whole world. At the same time, the contrast between those royal gifts and Jesus' humble surroundings (and that his family was forced to flee into exile soon after) also declares that Jesus was a king like no other, with a divine mission that confounded and surpassed everything the Messiah was expected to be and do.



In the Sanctuary

### **"Spiritual Parenting"**

This DVD-based series will empower parents to be the primary nurturers of their children's faith. Families will be transformed as they learn how to create space for God-encounters in everyday life. Join the Wollans for this class in the Sanctuary.



## Seniors' Scene

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone! I wish you all God's blessings for this fresh and new space of time--2016 A.D. As we live out whatever time God gives us in this new year, I can't help but think of this little story:

A man was watching a young lad sledding down a hill one wintry day. As he watched he noticed something that needed explanation. When the boy was on the sled streaking down the hill, instead of shouts of glee he had a sad look on his face. But when he was trudging up the hill in deep snow, and with heavy boots, he was smiling and laughing. "That's backwards," he thought to himself. So he asked the boy why he was so sad speeding downhill, and so cheerful trodding back up. "Oh," answered the boy, "it's because when I'm walking uphill I'm dreaming about soon sliding rapidly down. But when I'm on the way down, I'm dreading the walk back up."

Winter lies ahead. Maybe even as you read this it is here in all its fury. Some dread that. We might envy the "snow birds," or relatives who live in warmer climates. Or, we might be in a minor depression over it. How long will winter last? Weather--it's one of the most frequent topics of conversation we have, isn't it?

Why not be like the little boy? With winter's cold blasts, why not think of things we look forward to? Like "*See you at SENIORS POTLUCK*"? Is it possible the fellowship around food and Gospel can warm us up, just thinking about it? There are many other things to anticipate with joy and expectation as well.

In fact, when we get right down to it, Scripture teaches us to always be looking ahead. St. Paul says in Colossians 3:1-4:

*"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died (in Baptism) and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."*

Like the boy in the story, looking ahead to what Christ has in store for us can put a joy in our hearts and a smile on our faces. It can make a real difference in how we live out our days here on earth.

## Seniors' Potluck

**SENIORS' POTLUCK Reminder...**our next meeting is **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon**; beginning with our potluck dinner. We look forward to hearing from Josiah Frusti, who is still fairly new as the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Faith. We welcome Josiah and his wife Brooke into our fellowship in Christ and offer them our prayers and support. We look forward to getting to know Josiah more personally as he tells us about himself and his ministry goals.

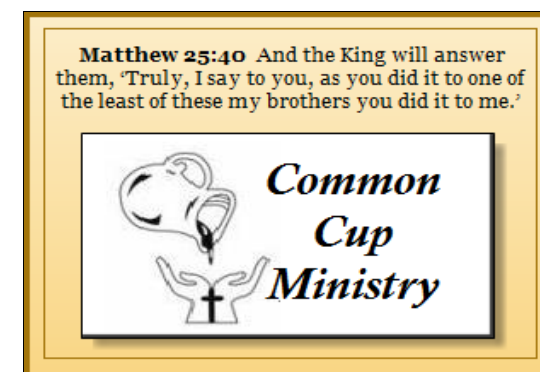


## Important January 2016 Dates

<b>January 3</b> Community Meal Compline	<b>January 9</b> Breakfast and Bibles	<b>January 16</b> Mugs & Muffins
<b>January 7</b> Faith Serves Ecumenical Free Lunch	<b>January 10</b> Faith Family Fun Day – Swimming	<b>January 24</b> First Communion Class for 6th Graders begins
<b>January 8</b> Middle School Powerhouse	<b>January 12</b> Ministry Teams and Council Meetings	<b>January 31</b> Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting Compline (note date)

### A Big Thank You for your Generous Gifts to Meet Hunger Needs

With thanksgiving, your Church in the World Team reports that \$6,561.00 has been given to meet hunger needs through the November Mission and Thanksgiving offerings. It has been distributed as follows: 30% to Common Cup, 25% to Lutheran World Relief, 25% to Samaritan's Purse, and 20% to Friends of Madagascar Mission.



<a href="#">Hutchinson</a> 105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2 Hutchinson, MN 55350 320-587-2213	<a href="#">Glencoe</a> 925 13th Street East Glencoe, MN 55336 320-864-5511
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**Free Community Meal on Sunday, Jan. 3  
From 4 - 6 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church**

**Laundry Love Ministry** takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7. You bring the dirty clothes, we'll bring the quarters.

HungerFree McLeod's **Backpack Program** provides weekend food for students on the free/reduced program in McLeod County schools. It currently serves around 200 children in grades K-3. The cost is approximately \$5.00 per child per week or \$1,000 each weekend during the school year. If you or a group you know would like to spend a few hours packing bags, call the CCM office and sign up.

**Provision of Personal Products or PoPP** is a program providing personal care products to students in grades 5-12.

**DONATIONS FOR ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND CAN BE PLACED IN THE COMMON CUP CORNERS AT FAITH ANYTIME.**