

# Faith Matters

## Pastors' Page

JANUARY 2017

Wow. 2016. What a crazy year!

We witnessed world-wide events, like the Zika virus, Brexit, the Summer Olympics, and the Orlando night-club shooting. The Cubs won the World Series, and, of course, there was a long, messy, and surprising Presidential election.

There were a lot of notable deaths. We said goodbye to Harper Lee, Nancy Reagan, David Bowie, Patty Duke, Prince, Muhammad Ali, Gordie Howe, Arnold Palmer, Gene Wilder, Janet Reno, and many more.

From my perspective, 2016 was a mixed bag.

There were a lot of things to celebrate in 2016, especially at Faith! A lot of babies were born and baptized. Faith Groups have forged deeper relationships and deeper understanding of the Word. We have added two wonderful groups of new members, a bunch of couples have gotten married, the high school experienced two amazing mission trips. We have gifted and faithful people serving on ministry teams, church council, and volunteering, and so much more!

At the same time, there were unfortunate developments. Some of our brothers and sisters died this past year. Some were diagnosed with cancer. Some members became inactive, some marriages fell apart, some people lost their jobs, many people struggled with depression, addiction, and anxiety. For many people, 2016 was a year to forget.

How will you remember 2016?

Maybe you are glad to put it behind you or maybe you will treasure it forever. Maybe it darkened your view of the world or maybe it gave you hope for the future. Either way, one thing is true and must be remembered:

Jesus is Lord!

Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus sits on the throne and all things are under his feet. He reigns!

So Scripture declares:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time.”  
Ecclesiastes 3:11

And:

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”  
Hebrews 13:8

So whether 2016 was good or bad: trust in Jesus.

And whatever happens in 2017 and beyond: trust in Jesus.

So come. Come and worship. Come and hear the promises of our Lord for you.

See you in church, Pastor Dave



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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: I ran across a reference to “The Slaughter of the Innocents.” What was that?*

*A: The Slaughter of the Innocents is a part of the Christmas story as told by Matthew. It is a tragic, infuriating, heart-breaking account that is rarely read,*

not least because it is so unpleasant. That is unfortunate, though, because it adds an important reminder to our Christmas celebrations.

When the Wise Men appeared in Jerusalem asking where they could find the newborn King of the Jews, King Herod immediately sought the answer from the chief priests. Based on a passage in Micah 5, they said that such a child would be born in Bethlehem. Herod pretended that he wanted to worship this new king as the Wise Men did. The reality was that he was infamously paranoid about threats to his rule. He even had several of his children murdered when he thought they were plotting against him. He only wanted to know if the Wise Men found the child Jesus so he could eliminate him.

God warned the Wise Men in a dream not to return to King Herod and report on what they had found, but that frustrated Herod's plan to destroy this supposed threat to his throne. In fury, he ordered a scatter-shot effort to accomplish his goal by killing all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or younger.

It was a cruel and senseless act in any case, but especially since Jesus had no designs on King Herod's or any other earthly throne. But it is also a powerful illustration of how Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, challenges all earthly powers and authorities—including those idols that so easily take up residence in our own lives. That is why this horrific account should not be forgotten or ignored, but read as a cautionary tale and a call to repent.

### Important Dates

**January 1 - 8 a.m.** First Word with Holy Communion  
10:10 a.m. combined Sanctuary and Foundation Service  
(No Sunday School or Digging Deeper)

**January 8 - 4 p.m.** Faith Family Fun and Free Community Meal

**Week of January 8 - All weekly Bible studies start back up**

**January 10 - 6 p.m.** Ministry Team Meetings (note this is a week early this month)  
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting - last meeting of the current year!

**January 13 - 10:00 a.m.** 6-8 Grade Students to Big Thrill Factory (turn in permission slip by Jan. 8)

**January 14 - 8 a.m.** Breakfast and Bibles

**January 15** Annual Reports available for congregational distribution

**January 18 - 5 p.m.** 56er's go tubing (please turn in a permission slip by Jan. 4)

**January 21 - 9:30 a.m.** Special Women's Spa Day at Faith

**January 25 - 5:30 p.m.** FLYouth going tubing

**January 26 - 12:00** Seniors' Potluck

**January 27 - 7 p.m.** Middle School Powerhouse at St. A's

**January 29 - 12:00** Annual Meeting (a pasta bar lunch will be served before the meeting)  
7 p.m. Compline



In December, Faith's mortgage lender, Thrivent Financial, agreed to reduce by 50% the amount of reserve funds that must be held on deposit at Thrivent. That amount, along with the gifts given toward the \$20,000 matching challenge at the end of 2016, and our annual opportunity to re-amortize the loan will all help to accelerate the payoff of the mortgage. As we begin 2017, the principal amount has fallen below \$2 million and the life of the loan has been shortened by nearly ten years! Thank you to all the members and friends of Faith who have given so generously to provide this marvelous space for ministry.

## Faith-full Finances

Since the deadline for this issue of *Faith Matters* is mid-December, we do not know as of this writing how Faith Lutheran's finances turned out at the end of 2016. But we do know and trust that the Lord will provide the resources necessary to carry out the ministry and mission He has entrusted to us here. Faith's leaders thank all of you who have given faithfully this year as God has blessed you and ask that you would continue to invest in Faith Lutheran in 2017. As you return to God a portion of what He has first given you, it enables the church and its staff to proclaim the good news of Christ to all whom we encounter, here and around the world.

## Mission Causes Receive Marvelous Support

A big thank you goes out to everyone from Faith who has given so generously in the past weeks for multiple mission causes. Final totals may change, but this is what can be reported so far.

**November Hunger Response: Approximately \$9,000 was given.** This is almost double our base goal. 35% will go to help Hurricane Matthew victims through Samaritan's Purse. 35% will go to Common Cup to meet local needs, especially to fund their weekend backpack program to provide students in need with food. The remaining 30% will be split between Friends of Madagascar Mission and the Augustana District partnership with the Tabor Congregation in Ethiopia. Donations given to these causes will fund emergency food assistance to people in dire need.



**Heavy Duty Van for Tabor Outreach Support and Training.** Over \$8,000 has been given or committed towards the goal of \$9,500. Faith members gave over \$3,500 towards this need. This also was a wonderful and generous response.



**Fill the Boat and Common Cup Concert:** Again Faith members stepped with amazing generosity. The boat was filled with 1,061 pounds of food and the annual concert brought in over \$9,000. Thank you for meeting local needs so abundantly.



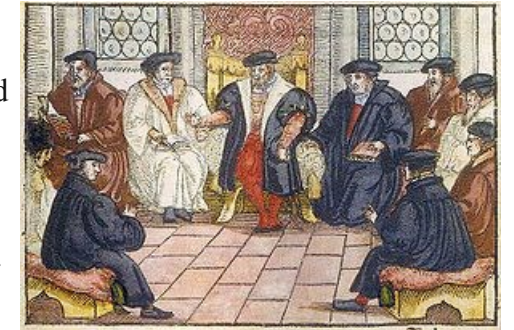
# Thank You!

## 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 January 8 - January 29 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.



Meeting in the Faith Center.

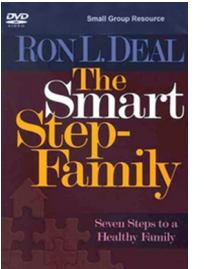
### ***"The Story of Baptism"***



Have you ever wondered where baptism came from? Did the Jews celebrate a form of baptism? Come and see! Did Christ need to be baptized? Come and see! Did Luther think baptism was a big deal? Come and see! Is baptism under attack today? Is it needed today? Come and see! Meeting in the third floor conference room.

### ***"The Smart Step-Family"***

Do you know someone who is a single parent? Do you have a family member who is a part of a step-family? Are you a part of a step-family? This DVD series takes a look at the unique dynamics of a step-family through scripture with a little bit of humor. Expert Ron Deal shares valuable insights and practical tips for step-families and those around them. Helpful for single parents, those considering remarriage, those already in a step-family household and even those who just want a better understanding of your extended family members who may be in a step household. This is part two of this series but you did not have to attend part one to jump in. Meeting in the office conference room.



### ***Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church:***

- 8:00 a.m. First Word (Traditional Service)***
- 9:05 a.m. Sunday School for Pre-K - 6th Grade***
- 9:15 a.m. Confirmation (7th & 8th Grade)***
- and Adult Digging Deeper Classes***
- 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Service***  
***(Blended Service in the Sanctuary)***
- 10:10 a.m. Foundation Service***  
***(Contemporary Service in the downstairs Foundation space)***

### ***For the youngest members:***

***Faith Seeds*** - a time during each service when children of all ages are invited to come forward for a lesson geared towards them. Parents and "big kids" are invited too!

***Sprouts*** - after Faith Seeds, during the 10:10 services, children ages 3-6 can leave for a short hands-on lesson. They will return to their parents after the sermon.



### Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)

Greetings to you as we begin 2017! Thank you to many women and men who have helped with projects, activities and ministries over the past year. You are a blessing! Plans have already started for the Annual Rummage Sale, which will be held April 27-29 in 2017. This year we hope to feature an outdoor sale area as well as a bistro for your dining pleasure as you shop. Remember to keep setting aside those things you are willing to part with. Donations will be accepted beginning April 24. *(Due to space limitations we cannot accept early donation.)*

The funeral coordinator schedule for 2017 is currently being set up. Prayerfully consider taking a month or two to oversee this important ministry. Please contact Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227 for more information.



### **Women's Body & Soul Spa Day - January 21, 2017**

*Co-sponsored by Mugs and Muffins and the FLCW*

**"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29**

Women of all ages! Come and spend the day being pampered and renewed in mind, body and spirit. Devotions, a wonderful speaker, noon salad lunch and choose your own afternoon sessions such as a prayer room, chair yoga, hand massages, learning about essential oils, etc. The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last until 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend the whole day, plan on coming when you can. A free-will donation will be taken. Join us!

### Breakfast and Bibles

Saturday, January 14, at 8 a.m. will be the next opportunity for the men of Faith to gather and dig into some breakfast goodies and the Word. This event is open to men of all ages. Bring a Bible and come ready to connect with other godly men. We promise NO YOGA, MASSAGES, ESSENTIAL OILS, ETC!



### Thrivent Choice® makes a meaningful impact

Directing Choice Dollars® can help support Faith Lutheran Church. Think of the impact you—along with other eligible Thrivent members—can help make by choosing Choice Dollars® to go to Faith. The grant funding we receive from Thrivent Financial through this program can help Faith in many different ways. So far this year, Thrivent members have donated \$7,574.00 to Faith through this program.

Directing Choice Dollars is easy. Simply go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more and find program terms and conditions. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. Together, we can do even more to help strengthen communities and change lives.



### *Coming Soon!* **"What Does This Mean?"**

Faith Groups are coming back in 2017. Our Lenten series will focus on some of Martin Luther's key teachings. The weekly worship and the small groups will both dig into some deep Lutheran theology while asking and answering the question: "What does this mean?"

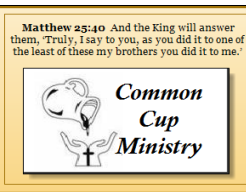
Small groups will again watch a video series with a devotional booklet for each participant to read and study. The series will run from March 1 to Holy Week, the week of April 9. Sign-up opportunities will begin in February, so watch for those to come out. Small group leaders are needed and you can contact Marsha if you would like to lead a group.

For the snowbirds that want to stay plugged in, we will again post the booklet and links to the videos on the Faith Lutheran Church website, so you can participate no matter where you are.

Look at your calendar now and figure out what day/night would work the best for you to participate in a group. When sign-ups begin, we will take suggestions on what times work best for you.

If you have not participated in a group yet, please prayerfully consider it. It is a wonderful way to build relationships and to really dig into the Reformation Gospel. If you have participated and are interested in leading a group or in participating, please contact Marsha Schmit at 320-587-2093 or [marshas@faithlc.com](mailto:marshas@faithlc.com).





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320-587-2213  
Website: www.common-cup.org

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

**Community Meal @ FLC**  
Sunday,  
January 8  
4-6 p.m.

**FREE COMMUNITY MEAL SCHEDULE:**

**1st Sunday Supper 4:00-6:00 p.m. @ Faith Lutheran Church**  
(January and July are 2nd Sunday due to Holidays);

**1st Wednesday Lunch 11:00 am-12:30 p.m. @ New Journey United Church of Christ;**

**2nd Saturday Breakfast 8:30-9:30 a.m. @ Bethlehem United Methodist Church;**

**3rd Wednesday Lunch 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. @ New Journey United Church of Christ;**

**3rd Friday Supper 5:00-6:30 p.m. @ Peace Lutheran Church;**

**3rd Saturday Breakfast 8:30-10:30 a.m. @ Christ the King Lutheran Church;**

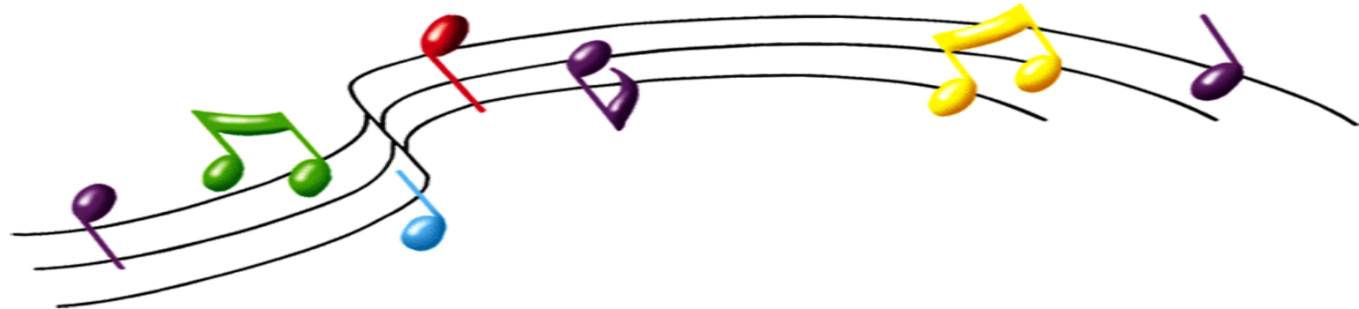
**4th Friday Supper 5:30-6:30 p.m. @ Bethlehem United Methodist Church**

**If you or a group you know would be willing to serve one of the 1st Sunday Suppers at Faith Lutheran, please call the church office to sign up. The commitment is minimal and the reward is great!**

**THANK YOU** to those who faithfully provide fruit cups each week in support of the backpack program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

# Music Notes

Help give a warm Faith Lutheran Church welcome to Paul Cravens, new Director of Music and Worship for Faith Lutheran Church. Paul will begin in January of 2017, with a sneak preview at the 10:10 a.m. service on Christmas Day.



## SENIORS' SCENE

What do you like to do in your leisure time? Specifically, what HOBBIES do you enjoy when you can get away from it all? Hobbies will be the focus of the January 26<sup>th</sup> Seniors Potluck meeting. The meeting will begin, as always, with a potluck dinner. Warm food in a cold month. Sound good??

The steering committee knows there are a lot of people with hobbies that we would like to know more about. Maybe you've joined the recent surge in adult coloring - some real artistic stuff! Maybe you do woodworking, crocheting, knitting; painting, collecting salt and pepper shakers or antiques, embroidering, ... endless possibilities of things you enjoy in your homes that others just might be glad to see. Of course, if you're into grooming and riding horses, you might have to leave that one at home or in the barn. But ... you could bring a picture. If your hobby can't be displayed on a table in the Faith Center, please bring a picture.

We are going to have tables for you to display samples of your hobbies. Pick a sample or two and bring them for all of us to enjoy. If you can't bring it, bring a picture. We'll give you time to introduce your hobby and tell us what it does for you to enjoy producing it. It doesn't have to be a product of excellence to be enjoyable for you. Let us enjoy it with you. Share your handiwork with us.

Another thing: if you want to donate something you make for a raffle, let Pastor Paulus know. Bring your object to the meeting and we'll have people enter their names for a drawing. The funny thing about this raffle is that it costs nothing, only putting your name on a slip to place in the drawing basket. Just a fun activity. You won't want to miss this meeting; right?

That's it. That's our program for **SENIORS' POTLUCK on January 26, 2017, beginning at 12:00 noon.** We'll see you there, along with the friend you'll bring ... AND YOUR HOBBY.



**Help us to keep YOU plugged in . . . . Please contact the office:**

- > If you have cancelled your landline in the past year
- > If you have moved in the past year
- > If you want to receive the weekly or monthly newsletters via email

**If you are a snowbird, there are a number of ways to stay in touch with FLC while you are gone.**

- 1) Please contact the office with the dates that you will be away and your address change
- 2) follow us on Facebook
- 3) check in weekly on the FLC website for the Sunday sermons, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, council minutes and the latest news
- 4) go to the FLC website at Faithlc.com under the tabs About/Worship Info/Service on Cable to hear the T.V. Broadcasts live or go to KDUZ's website to hear the 8 a.m. Sunday services live
- 5) sign-up for the weekly E-news e-mail



Contact Wendy Magruder at wendym@faithlc.com or 234-8403 for more information or to make changes.

# Thoughts and Prayers

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



Remember our Faith members in nursing homes & health care centers

- 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 Stadsklev (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)

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

Millie Blake

James Boll

Valerie Fimon

Ruth Hackbarth

Dave & Betty Jensen

Joanne Olesen

Harold Sanken

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Delores Saar

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Deloris Askew

Don Fitzgerald

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**