

# Faith Matters

Pastors' Page

JULY 2016



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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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It is hard to believe that Faith Lutheran has already been using the new building addition for six years, but there is no denying the calendar. That means it is already time for some preventative maintenance to be done.

This summer, cracks in the new section of the church parking lot will be filled and seal coating applied in order to keep it in good shape for several more years. Due to the steady support of many of Faith's members, our Building Maintenance Fund can cover the cost of this project with no effect on the General Fund. It is a great blessing to have money on hand to address needs like this when they arise.

This need for maintenance, however, has also presented Faith with a *great opportunity*. The old, north section of our parking lot has been in terrible shape for many years. Some minimal maintenance has been done on it for safety reasons, but it is truly falling apart. It is space that we need during worship and other large events held here.

Hjerpe Contracting has generously offered to donate the preparation work and road construction firms are in town working on city streets all summer. That means Faith has the chance to pave the north section and unify our parking lot for only \$22,400. The Church Council felt this was an opportunity not to be missed and has approved moving ahead with it.

The problem is that the Building Maintenance Fund is not able to cover the cost of both projects. So the church council is asking members and friends of Faith to consider giving special gifts this month to help make parking at the church safer and more useful. A special envelope for these gifts is included with this newsletter. We do not yet know the exact date when the work will be done, but it will be sometime this summer. The sooner such gifts can be received, the better.

The council considered whether spending this money is wise, given that we hope to build Phase II of the building project on part of the area that will be paved. That project, however, is unlikely to begin for at least 7-10 years. That is the typical life-span of asphalt before it needs maintenance. The council felt that having a safe, structurally sound parking lot for that length of time—and possibly longer—was a good investment that will benefit the church.

If you have questions or concerns about these projects, please talk to me, to Wade Eastman, our congregational president, or any member of the church council. *Thank you* in advance for whatever gifts you are able to give toward this important project.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott



## Faith-full Finances

The financial life of a church is an exercise in trust. A church like Faith makes commitments to people (salaries, benefits), enters into contracts (the mortgage) and bears responsibilities for assets (building, property). Yet, its income is entirely dependent on gifts freely offered by its members and, while most businesses also have no guarantee of income, the church gives away virtually all of its “products” for free. It is an astounding testimony to God’s faithfulness and people’s commitment that, year after year, the Church receives those gifts it needs to meet its obligations.

Our lives as believers are also meant to be exercises in trust. The Bible reminds us that everything we have and are is a gift freely given by God. Even the money we earn comes through the abilities and energy God gives us. That is the main reason that Christians are urged to give regularly according to their income. It is an ongoing reminder that, no matter how secure we might feel, we actually depend on God for all things and we can trust Him to continue to provide for us in steadfast love.

## FLC Endowment Fund Continues to Bless Mission Efforts

Nearly \$18,000 was recently disbursed to multiple mission causes: global, regional, local, and special needs. A special thank you needs to go out to all those who have, through bequests or special gifts, provided funds from which interest earned can extend the witness of FLC near and far.

Globally, missions that were generously supported were New Hope Mission Society, Eastern European Mission Network, the Augustana District Tabor Partnership, Global Health Ministry, and Lutheran World Relief.

Regionally, the Institute of Lutheran Theology, the Augustana District, and Green Lake Bible Camp received gifts.

Locally, Common Cup Ministries, FLC Youth Mission Trips, Club 218, Scholarships, and FLC Christian Counseling Fund were supported.

This resource is often taken for granted and not always lifted up as the blessing that it is. Thank you to FLC members who manage this resource well and oversee its disbursements.

# stump the pastor

**Q:** I read someone describe the Bible as “a bunch of Bronze Age myths.” Can we trust that the Bible is true?

**A:** The short answer is yes, but it also needs some nuance. Some Biblical events did occur in the Bronze Age, but to call it “a bunch of Bronze Age myths” is clearly meant to dismiss it as unreliable fiction. That is an easy and uninformed insult that does not bear up under scrutiny.

First, skeptics (and many Christians) try to hold the Bible to modern standards of objectivity and factual accuracy. But those standards were unattainable in the ancient world. No ancient history or literature can match them. Moreover, the ancient standards were simply different. They did not value facts and disinterested description above all else. The point of history was to convince the reader of the truth and meaning of the events being described. Historians were not expected to be neutral, but to make a persuasive case. It is important that we allow the Bible to be what it is—ancient history written according to ancient standards.

On the other hand, the implication that the Bible is therefore just fiction is simply untrue. New archaeological evidence is discovered every year that confirms the historicity of people and events in the Bible. Its story is rooted in real people who lived real lives in real places.

The deeper issue here, though, is whether the Bible itself has integrity and can be trusted to reveal God’s Word. That cannot be proven, but only experienced. There is no argument to be made or evidence to be compiled that will independently prove that the Bible is trustworthy. Instead, it must be experienced as it is read, for the main proof that the Bible is God’s Word is that it works in the lives of those who read it. God uses it to do his saving work in His people.

That accounts for another key difference between the Bible and most other ancient literature. Unlike the holy books of the great ancient empires, the scriptures of little Israel survived and have been used consistently ever since they were written. They were not dug up out of archaeological sites or preserved by an elite guild of priests. They were used and treasured because the people who read them knew that they were the vehicle for the living Word of God.

## Coming Soon ~ To A Church Near You:



## Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)

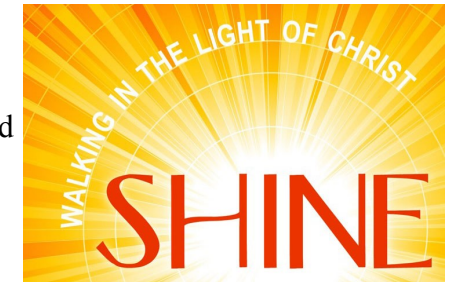
Thank you to those who cleaned the church kitchen on June 14.  
Your time and effort are appreciated!

## Fall Women’s Retreat

A fall women’s retreat called “Life is Crazy Good” will be held **September 23-25 at Mt. Carmel in Alexandria.** Brochures are located outside the sanctuary. Shannon Brice attended last year and was so excited about it, she wants to get a group of women to go from Faith!

For more information contact Shannon at 612-790-5375

or email: [shannonbrice@msn.com](mailto:shannonbrice@msn.com)



## Breakfast and Bibles



## **MEN’S GROUP**

Hey, Guys!—What are you doing Saturday, July 9 at 8:00 a.m.?

You don’t want to skip Breakfast and Bibles! How does your life compare with David, Isaiah, or Jonah? Yes, we have been discussing various men in the Bible as they relate to our lives—

**TODAY!** We’re learning about ourselves, how God made us, having fun, and getting to know each other. . .and don’t forget, breakfast with no decorations. Circle Saturday, July 9 at 8:00-9:15 a.m. on your calendar and come out to hear Pastor Dave introduce Balaam.

Bring your Bible - see you Saturday, July 9!

## *Outdoor Worship Is Here*

### Outdoor Worship Services

Sundays through 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.*

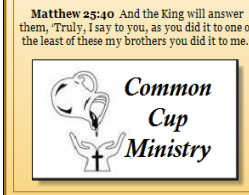
*Watch the Facebook page for weather updates.*

First Word at 8 a.m. continues to meet in the sanctuary.

Sunday School and Digging Deeper will return in the fall.







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**Laundry Love Ministry** takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, **July 19** 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.



**Diaper Distribution** takes place the last Tuesday of each month, **July 26**, 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.

School Supply Distribution takes place **August 17<sup>th</sup> 5-8 p.m. and August 18<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Each member church has been asked to choose certain supplies to collect for the drive. Faith Lutheran has chosen to be in charge of collecting **HIGHLIGHTERS** and **4-PACKS OF DRY-ERASE MARKERS**. Donations can be left in the Common Cup Corners. Thank you for supporting this ministry. Applications for supplies are available in the Common Cup Corners.



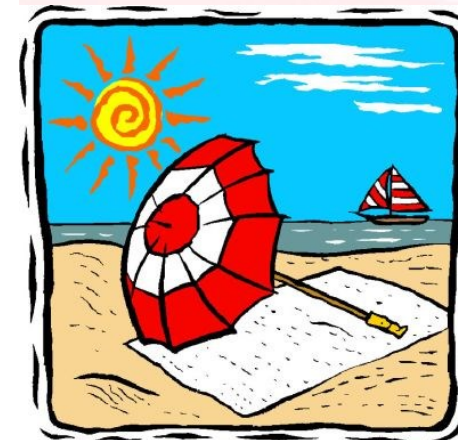
The **Summer Feeding Program** kicked off on **June 13** and runs through **August 12**. Activities (M-TH) & meals (M-F) run from 10:30-11:45 at the VFW Park & from 11:30-12:45 at the Rotary Park for ages 1-18.

Please donate your used, road-ready bikes to **Wheels of Mercy**, a program organized and administered through CTK to provide transportation to people without any.



**July Community Meal "Picnic"**

Sunday, July 10 from 4-6 p.m.  
 at Veterans Memorial Park (Behind Shopko)  
*(Please note, this picnic will replace the meal that is typically served at Faith the first Sunday of the month)*  
 Serving burgers and hotdogs, salad, beans, chips, drinks and dessert.  
 Grilled and served by the Discipleship Team



**Faith Lutheran Family Day at the Beach**

Sunday, August 7 from 3-8 p.m.  
 at Piepenburg Campground  
 Picnic, games, swimming, and worship around the campfire.  
 Put the date on your calendar now and watch for more details as they become available.

# Thoughts and Prayers

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

- Private 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (Norfolk, VA - 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

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