

Faith Matters

Pastors' Page

NOVEMBER 2016

“Created in Christ Jesus for Good Works”

Reflections from Pastor Paul Knudson

Ephesians 2:8-10: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**”

There is the old story about this old German (Norwegian, Dane, Ethiopian...) Lutheran who on his death bed had praised God that all his life he had rejoiced in being saved by grace...not by works”...and had resisted to the very end ever doing a good work. You can just picture him smugly breathing his last, awaiting his crown in glory for having his theology straight.

In contrast to this overdrawn scene, one of my great joys over 39 years of serving as a preacher at countless funerals was to lift up another picture. I did not have to make the deceased bigger than life, as some heroic model of generosity, giving of himself or herself for the sake of others. It was also, however, not necessary for me to champion the first half of this Scripture to be a true Lutheran pastor, making sure I never lifted up the life of the person in any praise worthy way. Rather, we ornery sinners, saved by grace, can often bear witness in our lives to the one who “created us in Christ Jesus for good works.” We can freely, even joyously point to Jesus Christ because “we are (in Christ) what he has made us.”

On October 30 and for the next year, we will be finding multiple ways to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. At times, we Lutherans get stuck in our “theological correctness” as if it should be separated from “how then shall we live.” The Apostle Paul, the champion of our Lutheran theological heritage, over and over made it abundantly clear that the joyous new life freely given to us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ leads us to joyous and sacrificial pouring out of our lives in witness, in good works.

I invite you to enter into our beginning month of celebrating the Reformation, as we move quickly and without any reservations to calling us personally and as a congregation to give of ourselves and of our treasure for the sake of our witness as people “**created in Christ Jesus for good works...our way of life.**”

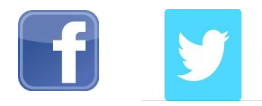
(Continued on page 2)



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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 find the Old Testament so hard to understand. Can't Christians just read the New Testament?

A: Christians can read only the New Testament and many basically have. It is possible to read only the New Testament and understand that Jesus is the Lord and

Savior of the world. Years ago, Old Testament readings were not even included in worship. I would never recommend that approach, however, because the full depth and meaning of the New Testament only becomes clear in light of the Old Testament.

It is important to remember that, for Jesus and the apostles, what we call the Old Testament was the only Scriptures they had. They were living and writing the New Testament. The early Church made the case for Jesus entirely on the basis of the Old Testament. After Easter, Jesus said, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44) The law, prophets and psalms (or writings) are the three sections of the Old Testament in Jewish thought—and Jesus said all three witness to him as Messiah and Lord.

To understand fully how God's plan of salvation began with Abraham and was *fulfilled* in (not replaced by) Jesus requires reading and understanding God's word given to Israel. It can be hard to read and to understand (Faith offers a lot of Bible studies to help with that), but the reward is more than worth the effort.



Important Dates

Reformation Sunday ~ October 30 (Wear red!)
Confirmation Services ~ October 30 at 1 and 3 p.m.
(Please keep the 35 students on page 6 in your prayers)
Lost Small Group Celebration ~ Tues. Nov. 1, 7 p.m. in the Faith Center
Thanksgiving Eve Service ~ Wed. Nov. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Day Service ~ Thurs. Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. (Church offices are closed)
(Ushers, Greeters, Communion helpers needed for both Thanksgiving Services)
Wednesday Advent Services begin Wed. Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m.
(We will kick off Advent with the annual Chili/Soup Cook-Off so dust off your favorite winter recipe and get ready to make a batch to share!)



Pastors Page continued from page 1 ~

November will be a month that provides many opportunities for all of us to live out joyously, freely, and sacrificially the way of life given to us by our merciful Savior. **Please be sure to read the Mission Page insert on page 3 and 4 this newsletter.** We will be challenged, yes, by these invitations to give of time and money. In Christ, challenges truly turn into marvelous opportunities for witness. We thank and praise our Lord for inviting us to this way of life.

Faith Lutheran Pours Out Abundant Blessings to Meet Mission Needs

Fill the Boat and Sink It Again

Great numbers of families in need in this community were the recipients of all the pictured food that buried the boat in 2015. You are invited once again to pour out an overflowing abundance of generosity. Food will be delivered from Faith to the the McLeod County Food Shelf by November 21 so that food can be distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (II Corinthians 9:8)

November: Our Annual Special Offerings for Hunger/Disaster Response Needs

Physical suffering from hurricanes and other disasters cry out for our gifts. You are invited to help us meet or exceed our minimum goal of \$5,000 to meet needs globally and at home.



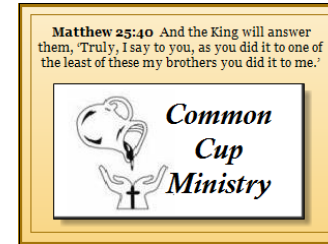
Samaritan’s Purse will be the means through which we respond to Hurricane Matthew, focusing on the needs in Haiti. Some 300,000 people there are in dire straits. Already, Samaritan’s Purse has provided some 120 tons of hygiene kits, household water filters, blankets, heavy duty plastic sheets, as well as opening up a cholera treatment center. **35% of funds received will help meet this need**

“During a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.”

(The Apostle Paul speaking of the Church in Philippi, II Corinthians 8:2)

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (II Corinthians 9:10)

Faith’s partners in Madagascar and Ethiopia will distribute funds to people they serve facing extreme poverty/hunger needs. Friends of Madagascar Mission and Tabor Congregation will be great stewards of seeing that funds given will meet dire needs, **30% of funds directed there.**



Common Cup Ministries, our reliable and faithful partner will carefully manage funds we give to address pressing emergency needs for food and to help families and individuals in our community trying to cope with hunger and other critical issues overwhelming them. Our giving will be especially directed at providing children who receive free lunches to have food on weekends. **35% of funds will go here.**



One of two Common Cup Corners at Faith where donations can be dropped off any time.

“I can testify they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.” (II Corinthians 8:3,4)

FLC collects fruit cups and applesauce throughout the school year to support this vital program.



Helping to Provide a Van to Partners at Tabor in Ethiopia



Evangelists desperately need support and training. Going to them in often remote areas calls for the purchase of a heavy duty van so this outreach witness can go forward. The total cost is \$38,000, \$19,000 of which is being raised from Augustana District churches. Of that, \$9,500 has been committed from one AD family. We are asked to join our 65 AD congregations to raise the remaining \$9,500.

Look for the invitation in coming weeks for above and beyond giving to meet this need.



Operation Christmas Child: Respond Now

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry the “Samaritan’s Purse” organization uses to introduce children and families to the Savior, Jesus. People throughout the United States pack shoe boxes with Christmas goodies. In 2016, 11 million boxes will be distributed to children in 109 countries. As they deliver the boxes, volunteers invite children to classes teaching God’s saving love through Christ. Nearly 50% who attend come to faith in Jesus.



Seniors’ Scene

Hear Ye, Hear Ye. It’s true. SENIORS’ POTLUCK meets earlier than other months--on Thursday, November 10th. We do that to avoid the Thanksgiving weekend festivities most families have. So write it down clearly on your calendar...November 10th, beginning at 12:00 noon, with our usual potluck dinner. There might be turkey soup, or sandwiches, or perhaps pumpkin pie. If so, we’ll have a preview of what’s coming on Thanksgiving Day, at a family event.

The biggest thing, though, is what we do after dinner. We pack Operation Christmas Child boxes. Like last year, tables will be filled with items to pack for specific ages and genders. We had so much fun doing it last year, we wondered if it felt at all like a time of serving our Lord. Well...serving Jesus can be fun, can’t it? The “ Great Commission” from Jesus to go and make disciples need not be somber. We can smile because of the joys of seeing young people who came to Jesus through Christmas boxes and the volunteers who related to them now being seen in worship, praying to the true God in the midst of Muslim-dominated nations. They smile too, knowing the love of God in Jesus brings them a peace they never before knew was possible.

So, come ready to eat, pack boxes, and go home to pray for God to use your boxes and efforts to bring another “lost sheep” into God’s fold. We really wish you would bring as many items as you can to add to the supplies on the tables. See the brochures for a longer, more extensive listing at the marvelous displays at both entrances at the church. Bring someone else, maybe someone new, with you.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Do the Christmas shoe boxes actually lead children to Jesus? No; of course boxes can’t do that. But, in the hands of Christians, who personally give a box of items the children would never have otherwise, and with people who issue invitations to hear about Jesus, and share booklets like “The Greatest Gift”, children might well begin a new relationship of faith in Jesus.



That was the case for Shukuran. He was a young boy on the wrong track, one of violence and rebellion. He received a Gospel booklet and became interested in what he read about Jesus. He enrolled in the 12-session class, “The Greatest Journey,” and became a Christian. However, when he invited his family to join with him at worship on Sundays, all responded but his father. Unfortunately, he left the family because of their new faith.

Fortunately, Shukuran is now a spiritual leader in his community and country.

So now you know the possibilities that go with preparing a Christmas shoe box. It may well result in a new faith in someone like Shukuran. Someone you may meet in heaven with Jesus.

Keep in mind the 2 packing sessions: Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, 8:30-10:00am, in the youth space. This is a “late start” school day. We will need a good crew of older adults to help. Thursday, November 10th, at our regular Seniors’ Potluck meeting. You may come for the entire meeting, beginning with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon (bring something to pass); or you can come at 1:00 p.m. when the packing begins. All ages are welcome.

Please keep this in mind: Deadline for receiving boxes is SUNDAY, NOV. 13th, with no grace period, as boxes will be shipped Nov. 14th.

Faith-full Finances

At the end of September, Faith Lutheran had nearly a *\$62,000.00 deficit* in its General Fund, which supports all the day-to-day ministry of the church. That big hole was in spite of *expenses being more than \$11,000 under budget*. In order to meet our 2016 budget, that deficit will have to be made up by year’s end.

The good news is that Faith’s members have overcome deficits like that, and even larger ones, for the last seven years. By God’s gracious providing, we believe that we can do so again in 2016 and finish an *eighth straight year* of meeting all our ministry commitments without any borrowing. Please consider prayerfully how you can support Faith’s mission and ministry out of the blessings God has provided you.

Using an IRA for a Good Cause

DID YOU KNOW that you can put a traditional IRA (not a Roth) to work for your church or other charity? And that both you and the charity will benefit from it? Starting at age 70 1/2, people must take what is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from each traditional IRA they own. These RMD’s are taxable, but only if they increase one’s income. They are not taxed if they are donated directly to a qualified charity, like Faith Lutheran Church. (All this assumes that the donor is not depending on the income from the RMD right now.) It is important to work with a financial planner to be fully informed about this process. For example, the RMD must go directly to the qualified charity for it not to be taxable. This is a great option for some people to support the church or other worthy causes. Congress has made this a permanent program, so these gifts can be made in any year.

Help us to keep YOU plugged in Please contact the office at 320-587-2093 or via email to wendym@faithlc.com

- > 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 weekly sermons, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, council minutes and the latest news 3) sign up for the weekly E-news e-mail.

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

Imagine Capital Campaign



Faith’s mortgage lender, Thrivent Financial, recently agreed to release half of the funds that the church had been required to keep on deposit. That amount will be applied to the principal of the loan and bring our mortgage balance under \$2 million! In addition, the Imagine campaign recently received a large gift with the goal of challenging the congregation to bring the mortgage down even faster. As these great strides are made, the goal of paying off the loan by Faith’s 150th anniversary in 2020 - over *15 years early!* - becomes more and more of a real possibility. *Thank You* for your faithful support of Imagine and the great space for ministry that it provides.

Semper Ref: Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Kicks Off

The slogan of the Marine Corps is *semper fidelis*, a Latin phrase that means “always faithful.” It is usually shortened to “semper fi,” and anyone who has served with the Marines treasures it as a summary of the patriotism and dedicated service demanded of them.

Lutherans have a similar slogan: *semper reformanda*, which means “always reforming.” It declares that the reformation of the Church was not a one-time event, but an ongoing responsibility for each generation.

Next year, October 31, 1517, will mark the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther sparking the Reformation of the Christian Church when he posted his *95 Theses* on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. Ironically, Luther intended only that his theses would start a theological debate in the university, but his work was taken down, published without his permission and soon spread across all of Europe.

Luther had given voice to widespread concerns about the state of the Church in his day and he soon found himself at the head of a growing movement for reform. He wanted to restore the truth of the Gospel and, as he pursued that goal, God led him into deeper understanding and more radical changes than he could ever have imagined.

The Reformation was a watershed in human history, ranked on one list as the third most significant event in the last 1,000 years! It recovered the radical truth of the Gospel, brought vital reforms to the Church and established a brilliant theological heritage that blesses the Christian family still today.

Over the next year, Faith Lutheran will lift up key parts of the Reformation story, culminating in a special celebration next October. The year will include a Reformation track during Digging Deeper, with one class each session focused on it. Sue Graff has made new Reformation banners and we will make much more use of the red liturgical color used for Reformation Day. Next year, Lent will revolve around vital Reformation theological insights. Plans are underway to teach our youth and children key aspects of this great history. Other special events are also included, such as this December’s trip to the Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

In all this, the main focus will be gratitude to God for raising up Luther and other reformers at a crucial time to restore the Gospel and reform the Church. For all his boldness, Luther was adamant that he was only an instrument God used. He wrote, “I simply taught, preached, and wrote God’s Word; otherwise I did nothing.

And while I slept, or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; the Word did everything.” That was not false humility, but Luther’s absolute conviction.

Watch for opportunities to join in this year of celebration, learning and gratitude as we explore the great heritage of our Lutheran tradition and look ahead to the next 500 years of Lutheran witness (unless, of course, Christ mercifully returns in glory before then!) *Semper Ref!*



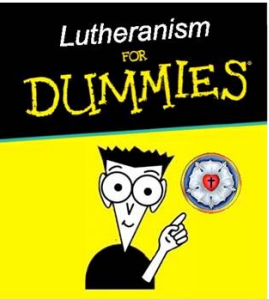
Digging Deeper Options

Pick a class and plug in ~ dig a little deeper into your faith and see how you can grow!

How Theology, Church, and Mission Shape Our Witness

Who we are in Christ theologically, how we come together as Church, and why and how we go out in mission all give shape to the witness before us in the name of Jesus. With this Digging Deeper four part Series, we will explore what is central, foundational, and compelling in answering our Lord’s call to be his witnesses. It has been 500 years since the Reformation began in Wittenberg, Germany led by Martin Luther. What will be the same and what will be different as we begin the next 500 years of witness?

- Oct. 30 (Reformation Sunday): “Here We Stand to Confess, Proclaim, Bear Witness
- Nov. 6 (All Saints Sunday): “When All the Saints Go Marching Out, What Then?
- Nov. 13 (Mission Sunday): “Celebrating Our Partnerships Near and Far”
- Nov. 20 (Christ the King Sunday): “Cross Shaped Witness Marks Followers of Our King”



Lutheranism for Dummies

Start off the Reformation Digging Deeper track with the basics. Whether you have been a life-long Lutheran or are new to the Lutheran church, this class will introduce you to the “need-to-knows” of Luther and the Lutheran understanding of the faith. *You would be a dummy not to attend!*

New Members Class

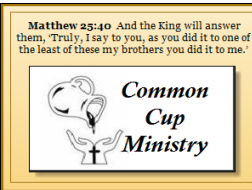
Faith will again be offering a New Members Class beginning Sunday, November 6 at 9:15 a.m. and continuing for three weeks to November 20. On Sunday, November 20, all new members will be received at the service that they typically attend. If you are interested in joining the New Member Class, please contact Marsha Schmidt at 320-587-2093.

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**
(Contemporary Service in the Sanctuary)
- 10:10 a.m. Foundation Service**
(Contemporary Service in a contemporary setting)

For the youngest members:

Faith Seeds - a time during each service when children of all ages are invited up front 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.



Hutchinson

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Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2213

Website: www.common-cup.org

Glencoe

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

Thank you to everyone who provided a warm coat or winter accessories. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.



November is Diaper Collection month here at Faith Lutheran. When you are out shopping this month, please remember those who struggle to provide for their families. Diaper distribution takes place on the last Tuesday of each month from 11-12:30 at Common Cup.



Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9 a.m.—6 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat on Hwy. 7. Donations of laundry soap, dryer sheets and quarters are appreciated, as it currently serves approximately 35 families at a cost of over \$600 per month.



Tenth Annual **Coming Together in Song Concert** to be held at **Christ the King Church** on **Sunday, November 20 from 4:00 p.m.** Come and enjoy a great concert including a performance by our own Faith Singers and help support Common Cup's largest fundraiser with a free will offering. Hope to see you there!



Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) Notes:

~ Thank you to Laurie Gelschus and Darlene Larson for all of their planning, organizing and serving for the Meatball Supper, along with an army of volunteers. After many years of overseeing this event, Laurie and Darlene are passing the baton (or should we say "meat thermometer") to another group for next year. We know there are many great cooks in the congregation, so if you would be willing and able to help with this event next year, please contact Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227.

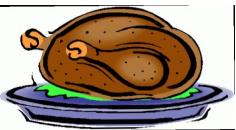
~ The annual FLCW meeting to disperse funds will be on Sunday, November 20 from 11:15-12:30 p.m. Take a few minutes to have coffee, cider and treats while helping us decide how to use the gifts God has blessed us with this year through various fundraising events.

~ The Funeral Coordinator schedule is being set up for 2017. It has gone very well this past year with coordinators taking just a month or two at a time instead of the whole year. If you can help with this very important ministry please contact Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227.

~ The next FLCW board meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Community Meal @ FLC
Sunday,
November 6
4-6 p.m.

Fare for All is offering a Thanksgiving Meal again this year. For \$30 you get a turkey and most of the fixings including a pie. Fare for All's November distribution is on Thurs. Nov. 17 from 4:30-5:30 but orders have to be placed by Fri. Nov. 11.



Mugs and Muffins

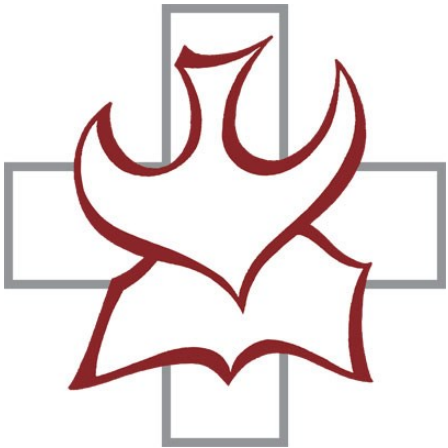
On Saturday, November 19th at 9:30 a.m. the Mugs and Muffins organizers are going to mix things up a bit. They are going to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes. You can find more information about this program on page 5. There are also displays at both entrances to the church with brochures of items that can be donated. Bring a mug, bring a friend and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Breakfast and Bibles



MEN'S GROUP

Saturday, November 12 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 with none of that girly decoration stuff!



Confirmation Class
~ October 30, 2016 ~

Blake Anderson

Morgan Berry

Kyle Bethke

Torre Brandel

Bodie Brice

Carter Clouse

Bryn Cruser

Caleb Fox

Anthony Dettman

Isabella Gandrud

Kacie Gores

Ashley Hanson

Alex Hantge

Ainslea Jensen

Hayden Jensen

Rachel Johnson

Mikayla Krueger

Camille Matheny

Andrew Nelson

Brennan Niska

Emma Olberg

Kendra Olson

Allysa Reid

Jesse Reiner

Lexus Salazar

Unique Salazar

Emma Schierman

Tyler Schiller

Sydney Schmidt

Kayla Schramm

Macy Stuber

Preston Sturges

Cecilia Vaillancourt

Saywer Varpness

Isaac Wehler

Please keep these students in your prayers!

Thoughts and Prayers

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

Private 1st 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

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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Faith Lutheran Church

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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