



# Faith Matters



## Pastors' Page

### JANUARY 2018

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A new year is just around the corner and, while New Year's Day is overshadowed by Christmas, it is still regarded as an important holiday. Especially for Americans, it reflects our well-known love for all things new. Despite being an arbitrary division, a new year seems to offer fresh possibilities in our lives. We consider buildings to be old after a few decades, while Europeans would say the shine is not even off them yet. Advertisements regularly tout "new and improved" formulas and frequently try sell the "product of tomorrow," not just today. Politicians are barely elected before there are calls to "throw the bums out." New cars, new cell phones, new celebrities and new fashions all appeal to us.

The flip side of our love of newness, however, is that we know it does not last. The "new car smell" fades quickly. Fads are fleeting and soon seem out-of-date. Before long, new tablets and cell phones feel slow and short on features. Before we know it, we will be well into 2018 and looking toward 2019.

Because of that, even as we continue to like what is new, we also long for that which will endure. It is unnerving to feel time passing so quickly. It seems as if our children grow up in the blink of an eye. It is frustrating when new products break down or fail to deliver. Vacations seem to be over before they begin. Maintenance projects need to be re-done almost as soon as they are finished.

In the Gospel, though, we find a truth that both offers the allure and overcomes the disappointment of newness. In Revelation 21:5, the risen Christ proclaims, "Behold, I am making all things new." By the forgiveness of sins, he cleans the slate and gives us a new start. Faith in Jesus grants us new life. Even the power of death will be set aside in the resurrection when a whole new creation will dawn.

But notice the grammar in that verse. "I am making" is a present participle. It indicates ongoing action, not a one-time event. It promises that Jesus makes us new again and again. In the section on Holy Baptism, the *Small Catechism* declares that "the new person (in Christ) should come forth every day and rise to live before God." Week after week, God pours out His grace on us through Word and sacrament to renew us in faith and devotion. The newness Christ works in us is not temporary nor does it fade away, but is constantly renewed in us by the Holy Spirit.

So, whether the year is new or old, whether we are living in the spring of childhood or the winter of our elderly years, whether our circumstances are recently changed or well-established, with Christ we have the best of both worlds. For he assures us every day, "See I am making all things new," and he will do so through all eternity.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott

We are on the  
Web:  
Faithlc.com

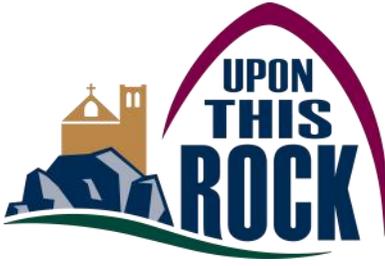


RADIO BROADCAST  
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.  
KDUZ 1260 AM

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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## Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

During the *Upon This Rock* capital campaign, a confirmand wrote a question on the back of a sermon note. “What’s so important about paying the mortgage by 2020?” That is the central goal of *Upon This Rock*, though it is just a goal, not a requirement. The church is only obligated to keep making the monthly payments, which, as of now, would complete the loan in 2025.

At one of the meetings held for *Upon This Rock*, however, someone asked how much money the church would save in interest costs if the mortgage was paid by 2020. Several variables make that hard to calculate, but we do know that, as of October 31, 2017, Faith has already been **spared nearly \$400,000 in interest expense** and will save **\$4,000 more for each additional month** we can peel off the loan! That is an enormous savings to the church and good stewardship of your offerings.

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stump  
the pastor

*Q: I have seen the letters IHS and INRI around the church. What do they mean?*

*A: Those groupings of letters each refer to Jesus, but in different ways. IHS are the first three letters of Jesus’ name in Greek, the language in which the New Testament was originally written. Until the printing press was invented, the Bible was copied by hand and the*

*copyists developed many abbreviations and short-hand forms to make their work easier. One of those was to write IHS instead of Jesus’ whole name. From there, it was taken over into art and sculpture as a brief way to name Jesus.*

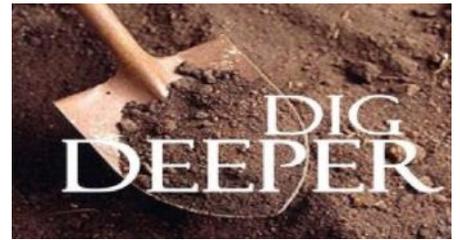
*INRI comes from Latin, the official language of the Roman Empire. It is an acronym for the charge that Pontius Pilate ordered to be affixed to Jesus’ cross, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” As in Greek, Jesus’ name begins with an “I” in Latin, as does the name of the Jews. The “R” comes from Rex, the Latin word for king. The full phrase would read IESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDÆORVM (with “V” representing our letter “U”), which was obviously much easier to abbreviate as INRI.*

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## The Mission of Money

Dr. Harry Wendt, the author of the *Crossways* Bible study, describes money as “mission in a portable form.” That is a valuable insight, because it is easy to think of mission and money as having little to do with one another. But the money you give to Faith Lutheran Church helps support staff members so they can lead this ministry. It is wired to India and Ethiopia to support mission work. It provides help for those in need through Common Cup and it pays for a welcoming facility where people can hear the good news of Jesus. Money really is a flexible, powerful, vital tool for the mission of God’s kingdom!

## Digging Deeper Opportunity



### **Psalms—the Hymns of Israel**

The book of Psalms was Israel's hymnal. Because Hebrew poetry is very different from poetry today, the psalms are difficult for us to sing. But, like the lyrics of our Christian hymns and songs, they are a treasure trove for Christian devotion and prayer, giving voice to the whole spectrum of the life of faith. Join Pastor Scott in exploring the spiritual riches found in the psalms.

### **Seminarian Seminar**

Faith Lutheran is blessed to have several members engaged in seminary studies. As part of their training, the seminarians will present topics that reflect their current studies during Digging Deeper. Come to learn from these pastors-in-training and help shape them for ministry.



### **Mugs and Muffins**

Returning on *Saturday, January 20, 2018.*

Save the date now and watch for more information to follow after the first of the year.

### **SnowBirds**

*Are you a snowbird? Will you be heading south soon?*

Please make sure to let the office know when you are leaving and when you will return, so that envelopes, newsletters, etc. are sent to the correct address. If we don't have current information, these items are returned to the church and we are charged extra postage for them. You can easily update your information by calling the office at 320-587-2093 or sending an e-mail to [office@faithlc.com](mailto:office@faithlc.com).



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

**8:00 a.m. First Word**  
**(Traditional Service in the sanctuary)**

**9:00 a.m. Educational Hour**  
**Sunday School, Confirmation Class and**  
**Multiple Adult Education Opportunities**

**10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Service**  
**(Blended service in the sanctuary)**

**10:10 a.m. Foundation Service**  
**(Contemporary service in Foundation)**

### **For the youngest members of Faith**

**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.**

## SENIORS' SCENE

The word “new” is with us. We are in a new year, 2018. We’ve been saying our “Happy New Year greetings.” What exactly is new about a new year? Probably most of us will conduct ourselves in much the same way as we did in 2017. We get up in the morning, go through certain routines, and enjoy life as much as we can. Not much new about that, right?

Well, maybe. I love the verses in Lamentations 3 where the prophet Jeremiah says to a downcast people of God,

***“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness.”***

The goodness and mercy of our God, every single day. That’s new, every time we wake up in the morning. We can depend on God’s goodness and mercy. The goodness of His love which translates into a steady promise of forgiveness and eternal salvation. That makes every single day we live new, very new. It doesn’t depend on our feelings or adventures. It is solidly built on the goodness of a God of grace who never forgets His children; never forgets YOU. That’s both old, and new.

Celebrate newness; God’s newness. This new of 2018, and always.

We have a new Director of Children and Family Ministry. Her name is not new to us, but her position, her presence in an office here at Faith Lutheran is. Laura Weikle was baptized and confirmed in this congregation and is back to serve and lead us in a very important ministry. We are certain she will grow in this position, and look forward to working with her.

Laura will introduce herself officially at our next **Seniors’ Potluck** meeting on **Thursday, January 25**, which will begin with our potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**. Come and **“Meet Laura Weikle.”** See what hopes and goals she has for her position here in our congregation. Learn about her family, her education, etc. Come, and bring a friend. Some warm fellowship in a cold month will be just the thing to lift us up.



Faith Lutheran  
Church Women

### **From the FLCW (all Faith Lutheran Church Women)**

~ Thank you to everyone who brought food and helped serve the community meal on December 3. You are a blessing to all who attended.

~ Thank you also to those who decorated the beautiful tables for the “‘Tis the Season” brunch, for those who made the food, to members of Megan’s Place for making the dessert, the men who served the food and the women who modeled. It was a joyous Christmas celebration.

~ The new freezer and refrigerator that the FLCW has purchased for the church have been installed. Stop down to the kitchen and take a peek. (You could also check the north counter for any kitchen items you may have left behind recently.)

~ Thank you to all of the funeral coordinators and supervisors for 2017, and those serving in 2018. This is such a vital part of the ministry of FLC and your dedication and service are invaluable!

~ It is time to start looking forward to the spring rummage sale in April. As you take your Christmas decorations down, if there are any that you no longer want or need, set them aside for the sale.



## Music Notes

by Paul Cravens, Director of Music and Worship

It's been said that a good rule of thumb for leaders in a new position is to avoid making any significant changes in their first year on the job, but rather to observe and acclimate, giving themselves a chance truly to get a feel for their new environment. In my first year as director of music and worship at Faith, I have been delighted to work in a ministry field where I can use my gifts to glorify God and to support the church, and where many of the systems are set up to succeed. However, as I continue to strive for personal improvement, I have also noticed some ways to improve the music program schedule as a whole. I am confident that these changes will allow me to do my job better, and my hope and prayer is that they will better serve the broader congregation as well.

As Faith's music ensembles resume following Christmas and the turn of the year, Faith Singers' Wednesday rehearsal will be **7:30-8:30** instead of the traditional 6-7. This will provide at least three benefits. First, the choir will no longer have to adjust rehearsal time around Lent or Advent services, but instead can maintain the same time throughout the entire season. Second, the later start time will create a much more substantial buffer between the end of the workday and the beginning of rehearsal. Finally, this change will allow me to rehearse with the FLY Band at 6. I've been unable to do justice to all my Wednesday evening responsibilities because there is simply too much going on in too small of a timeframe, but with these changes I should be able to give my full effort to everything. As always, I welcome any newcomers to Faith Singers – the only qualification to join is that you enjoy singing in a group!

The second change, which I announce with regret, is the discontinuation of the Compline service. Compline was always something truly special to me, and it was a large part of why I became interested in this church in the first place. However, attendance has been low all year (and even before I got here), and we haven't been able to bounce back. It sounds crass to talk about church services purely in terms of numbers, but eventually we must weigh the effort we expend against the opportunity to reach people. In the abstract, it would be "worth it" to me if only one person showed up for Compline, but to prepare and present any service takes a lot of time and energy, if we want to do it well – if we want it to merit anyone showing up at all. We needed to ask ourselves if this was still the best use for our energy, or if it could be redirected to other programming. I eagerly hope for the possibility of renewing Compline (or something like it) in the future, should the opportunity present itself. And regardless, I always look forward to worshipping with you, whether on Sunday morning, or evening, or at any time!



## Men of Faith

Wednesday, January 24, at 6 p.m. in the Faith Center  
(note the time is an hour earlier than before)  
Serving pizza for supper.  
Opening devotions will be led by Darrell Magruder  
and our special guest speaker introduces himself here:



Hello, my name is Richard.

I am a son, husband, father, friend, nephew, uncle, Godchild, Godfather, brother, alcoholic, youth mentor, youth group leader, sinner, teacher, baker, gardener, cousin, factory worker, addict, volunteer, care giver, eagle collector, Snoopy fan, but most importantly I am a child of God. Want to know more? Join me at "Men of Faith"!

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." *Isaiah 40:31*

## **November Hunger Appeal Funds Distributed: Thanks to All Who Gave**

In November, \$6,668.33 was received through our hunger appeal. It was distributed as follows:

40% for Common Cup Ministries, \$2,667.33

40% to meet needs in India through partners there

+ \$1,500 to meet a flood disaster in northern India

+ \$1,167.33 to go through New Hope Mission Society to feed families of Muslim prisoners facing severe hardships, especially lack of food.

20% to meet needs from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico through Samaritan's Purse, \$1,333.67. This figure will be doubled by Thrivent Financial. Earlier, \$855 was sent for hurricane relief in Texas, again doubled by Thrivent.

**Thank you so very much for this generosity! Jesus said: "As much as you did it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me."**



*In India most roads are flooded and rafts are being used to move food and medical supplies.*

## **Prayers Requested for Augustana District Team Going to Ethiopia in January**

Pastor Paul from Faith will lead a small delegation to evaluate and celebrate partnerships the AD has in Ethiopia. The trip will be from January 15-26.

Our major partner is the Tabor Congregation of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. We presently support financially 54 evangelists who bear witness throughout the country. Other needs, like working with farmers and purchasing land for worship sites and building these facilities, have also been addressed.

There is a second partnership in the North Central Ethiopia Synod. Through the support of one AD congregation, approximately 50 pastors/evangelists are being trained there.

Prayers for the safety of those traveling and for the growth of the partnerships are requested.

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## **News from Abdul in India for NHMS**

New Hope Mission workers in India are ministering specifically to women and children. In addition to food, clothing and shelter, we have partnered with doctors in the area to ensure that these women and children are receiving the medical care that they need. Our ultimate goal is that these precious ones would come to know the great physician, Jesus, who can give them eternal healing and relief from pain!

This Christmas, NHMS workers in India are excited to be organizing a Christmas celebration for over 240 children! For some, this will be the first time that they ever hear about the gift of Jesus coming to the world. Please keep these families in your prayers this Christmas season!

### ***Here is how you can pray:***

Please pray that the hearts of children and their parents would be open to the Gospel message.

Please pray that God would protect and care for prisoner families in India this winter.

Please pray for financial provision so that our frontline workers in India can minister to more women and children this Christmas and into the New Year!



# 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:

- Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA - son of Dawn Bos)
- Sgt. Jason Gaulke (El Paso, TX - nephew of Alice Fransen)
- Mason Rutledge (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son of Lenny & Patti Rutledge)
- Col. Rob Skaar (Duluth Air National Guard - son of Dave & Marian Skaar)
- LT Brett Stadsklev (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son-in-law of Judy & Tom Felber)
- Corporal Nathan Thunstrom (Marines, overseas deployment - son of Andy & Shelly Hedin and grandson of Dennis & Barb Hedin)
- PFC Ryan Wersal (Army, Fort Jackson, SC - son of Roger & Laurie Wersal)

### Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

- Patricia Lambert
- Bernice Vorbeck
- Lucille Wehking

### Cottagewood (Buffalo)

- Eleanor Lack

### Dassel Lakeside

- Doris Betker

### Glencoe Nursing Home

- Helen Sandlund
- Kathryn Wendlandt

### Harmony River

- Margaret Alrick
- Pearl Betker
- Russell & Irene Christensen
- Dave & Betty Jensen
- Joanne Olesen
- Harvey Skorheim
- Charlie & Harriet Thor
- Vivian Wigen

### Prairie Senior Cottages

- Pat Fimon

### Prairie View (Hector)

- Jerome Lindquist

### Woodstone

- Don Fitzgerald
- Betty Garberich
- 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