



Holy Week

Faith Matters

MARCH 2018

Pastors' Page



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**We are on the
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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.

As I write this, the news is still dominated by the horrific school shooting in Parkland, FL. It is no doubt a coincidence, albeit a theologically profound one, that this senseless massacre took place on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

On a day when we were reminded that “you are dust and to dust you shall return,” 17 unsuspecting victims were returned to the dust in a ghastly waste of God’s gift of life. At the start of a season devoted to confession of sin and repentance, utterly unrepentant sin had the upper hand. As we began our Lenten theme, “The Snares of the Devil,” Satan was no doubt gleefully cackling at the trap he laid and the wanton destruction that resulted.

Such a horrible coincidence raises many hard questions about the goodness of God and the Lordship of Christ. As hard as it may be to do, it is essential that we engage those questions fully and not try to push them aside because they are too threatening or upsetting. For to pursue such a troubling inquiry does not undermine the Gospel, but takes us directly into its heart and power.

The atrocity committed at that school in Florida drives home in the starkest possible way why a cross lies at the center of our Christian faith. It proves beyond doubt that God’s good creation is broken, plagued by violence, injustice, tragedy and a host of other evils. The goodness of God’s creation still shows through in many ways, but there is no question that it is also badly warped by sin.

It might seem logical that, since Jesus took on human flesh, died and rose again, things like this should not happen. But the truth is that Jesus took on flesh, died and rose again because things like this *do* happen. Rather than wipe out evil—and all creation with it, including you and me—God sent Jesus right into the teeth of evil in order to redeem the whole creation instead, at supreme cost not to us, but to Himself. II Corinthians 5:21 declares, “For our sake, he (God the Father) made him (Christ Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.” Note the striking language: Christ was not made a sinner, merely to sympathize or suffer with us, but was made sin itself, in order to put it to death on the cross and free us from its awful power.

At the same time, just because of God’s gracious, steadfast love for this broken world, our deliverance from sin does not call us out of the world, but drives us back into it as instruments of His saving love. We are called to comfort the suffering and grieving, to reach out to sinners of every stripe with the good news of Jesus, to seek ways to prevent such atrocities from happening again, and to strive to live out now the redemption that will only be completed at the Last Day.

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We do so, however, knowing that Jesus Christ is the only solution to the evil that plagues this world. The harsh reality of evil ultimately requires a spiritual solution, not only practical ones. Nothing other than the Gospel can overcome sin and the damage it does. So, we return to the cross, again and again, inviting others to join us in confessing our sin, pleading for mercy and clinging for dear life to the great and gracious promise found nowhere else but the cross: “God so loved the world that He sent His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

New Member Reception

New members will be received at Faith Lutheran on April 22 with orientation sessions on April 8, 15 and 22 during the education hour. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Faith, please contact Marsha Schmit at 587-2093 or marshas@faithlc.com.



stump the pastor

Q: Why do we live to die?

A: Actually, we don't—although it might seem that way, since everyone does die. But God created us for life, not death. Death came into the world as a consequence of sin (Genesis 3:19 and Romans 6:23).

Since sin infects everyone, everyone dies. Because of that, there has been an effort in our day to portray death as a natural reality, as the necessary end point of life, as something peaceful and not a fierce power to be feared. The Bible is much more honest. It declares that “the last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (I Corinthians 15:26) Death is not our natural end. It is our adversary.

It is precisely there, however, that the great power of the Gospel lies, for it proclaims that Christ has risen from the dead and broken its power. In Christ, death can still hold us for a time, but not forever. Death is no longer the last word. Christ is the last word—and he is alive!

So, while we do not live simply *in order* to die, in Christ, we no longer have to fear death. In light of Jesus' resurrection, we can see it instead as the gateway to eternal life, the end goal of our redemption in Christ. The New Testament often refers to death as “falling asleep,” not as a way to deny its power, but to proclaim that since Christ is risen from the dead, death is no more threatening to those who are in Christ than a sound night's sleep.

Why not, then, just go ahead and die? Why try to stay well and live a long life? Because God is a God of life, not death. Our lives, our very existence, every breath we take, are gifts from God. We do not devalue the gift of life, but neither do we idolize it. Rather, we live and die in the certainty that, as St. Paul declares in Romans 14, “Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”

The Mission of Money

Faith Lutheran belongs to the Augustana District of LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.) Pastor Paul Knudson of our staff has worked through Augustana to form a strong partnership with the Lutheran church in Ethiopia. It is growing explosively, causing a great need for pastors and other trained church leaders. That shortage is amplified because church leaders are paid so poorly, often not even a living wage. A portion of the offerings given to Faith Lutheran are passed on to a church in Ethiopia to help increase the pay of some of those leaders so that they can afford to do their ministry. It is one way that money serves mission and helps to further the Kingdom of God. Please continue to give generously as God has first blessed you, so that our congregation can continue to serve Christ here and around the world.



Lent



Our annual Lenten Picnic will be on Wednesday, March 21, from 5-6:15 p.m. in the Faith Center. Come for grilled hotdogs, beans, chips, lemonade and bars along with fellowship with your Faith family. Please join us for this taste of summer and then stay for the Lenten Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Special Lenten and Holy Week Services

Wednesdays through March 21

Evening Lenten services at 6:30 p.m.
Confirmation and Adult small group discussion follow each service

March 25 - Palm Sunday

Regular Sunday services. Sunday School students will be invited to participate in a palm processional

March 29 - Maundy Thursday

Services with 1st Communion for sixth grade students at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

March 30 - Good Friday

Services at 12 noon at Christ the King and 6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran

March 31 - Holy Saturday service 6:30 p.m.

April 1 - Easter Sunday

Services at 6, 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

SENIORS' SCENE

Jesus once asked, “Who do people say that I am?” Then he made it personal and asked, “Who do YOU say that I am?” How people answer that question is eternally important. How WE answer it also has ramifications for how we live today, and what our eternal future is.

We plan to spend some time pondering this subject at our March Seniors Potluck meeting. We are in the season of LENT, a time when we focus on what we call the “Passion” of our Savior, Jesus—His suffering and death, and why He would submit to that, FOR US!

The program is entitled, “**WHO IS THAT MAN?**” It’s a question people asked about Jesus as He was hanging on the cross. People present at that time had a hard time answering the question. Some wondered how He could possibly be a Savior. He was betrayed by one of His own close followers, he was denied by another and forsaken by all the other disciples. He was overpowered by Roman soldiers and even by the religious leaders of God’s chosen people. How could He now be so unbelievably humiliated by a criminal’s death? How could this Man raise three people from death earlier, then He Himself die later at the hands of evil men? What kind of Man is this?

Most seniors I visit with recall hymns sung during Lent that vividly punctuate the saving action of God for lost sinners through all that was happening in Jesus’ life, and are especially poignant as we walk through the Passion narrative. So we will highlight a few hymns from the past, and hear their backgrounds.

Our sincere hope is that a special focus on Scripture and age-old hymns will renew our hearts in faith, gratitude and assurance of our salvation in Jesus. Then when we are asked, “**WHO IS THAT MAN?**”, our answer will come from a heart so filled with God’s love in Jesus that it will radiate far beyond ourselves, and be a solid witness to all around us.



“If We Have Only **Hoped** in Christ”



**The Reliability
of the Gospel**

New Faith Groups Study starting after Easter *Spring 2018 Faith Groups Series*

Even if you haven’t been part of a Faith Group before,
we encourage you to join one this spring
as we dig into the reliability of the Gospel!
Watch for sign-ups coming soon!

You can also contact Marsha for more information on
how to get plugged in: marshas@faithlc.com or 587-2093.

Small Group Opportunities

The Snares of the Devil

This year's Lenten theme is **The Snares of the Devil: *The Screwtape Letters* and the Art of Temptation.**

As a follow-up to each Lenten worship service anyone in the congregation seeking more depth is invited for coffee and small-group discussion in the Faith Center. Each week, there is a set of questions for small-group discussion centered around C. S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*. Small-group facilitators are available to lead the discussion.

You can also listen (or review) a recorded sermon, find the discussion questions, and a list of what letter to read with its theme on the website at faithlc.com, on the page: Lenten Services.



The Screwtape Letters and the Art of Temptation
"...that they may escape from the snare of the devil,
having been held captive by him to do his will" -2 Timothy 2:26



Classes continuing through March 25

Giving the Heart its Due: Witness that Addresses Matters of the Heart: What moves us to or away from a life of faith in God? Both heart and mind are central and this series is looking at heart issues. Meeting in the office conference room.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Building on our Lenten theme, this group is exploring the allure and damage of the seven deadly sins: Pride, Envy, Sloth, Covetousness, Gluttony and Lust. Meeting in the Faith Center.

Made to Crave: A book study about satisfying our deepest desire. Delve into how we can satisfy that desire with God, not food. This study may change your outlook on current eating habits. Meeting in the third floor, east conference room.



B-TO-3

Parents of infants and toddlers, come to the nursery during the Digging Deeper hour on Sunday, March 4, for a time of support and encouragement. Learn about what you can be doing intentionally to nurture the faith of your children and get to know others in the same walk of life.
See you there!

Gifted, Spirit Empowered Leaders Make a Difference for Ethiopia Partners

Reflections from Pastor Paul

One of the greatest joys of my life in ministry is the blessing I have experienced through working with leaders of our partners in Ethiopia. I think of pastors and elders who have been so pivotal in making our partnership there mature and be effective.

I think first of Pastor Dawit y Wario, the lead pastor of the Tabor Congregation, our major Augustana District partner. He is a calm, strong presence of great faith and integrity. He has led this congregation, I believe, from its birth in 1995 with 350 members to its present membership of 9,000. Much could be said, but their firm commitment to ever-growing evangelical outreach is beyond imagination. In 2018, they are responding to 15 new areas crying out for an evangelist to come and bear witness to Jesus Christ. Pastor Dawit is at the center of that commitment. (see picture to the right)



Elders lead in very significant ways also. Working with two of the leading elders has been a wonderful experience for me. They shared with us some of their strategic plan and how our partnership has been so vital to their witness. (see picture to left)



Finally, in the center of the picture above, right is Pastor Wagnew Andagre, the new President of the North Central Ethiopia Synod. His story would be too long to tell here in detail. He began as an evangelist, went to graduate school, came back to train synod pastors and evangelists, and was elected President of the Synod. Again his commitment and that of his family has given me great joy. One of the AD congregations, Living Word, in Moses Lake, WA, has generously supported the training of this synods evangelists and pastors.

Note with Joy this Financial Report of the Tabor Partnership, 2014-2017

Major Activities	Budget	AD Support	%AD
Evangelists support	\$365,936	\$146,378	40%
Church construction	\$69,460	\$32,497	47%
Purchase of land	\$38,936	\$22,928	59%
Farmers support	\$7,400	\$7,400	100%
Van purchase	\$55,398	\$28,769	56%
Training of evangelists & ministers	\$8,246	\$6,250	76%
Total	\$553,939	\$255,192	45%

Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.'



Community Meal served by FLCW Sunday, March 4, 4-6 p.m.

Hutchinson
105 Second Avenue SW Suite #2
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2213

Glencoe
1022 12th Street East
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-5511

Fare for All distribution will be on Thursday, March 22 from 4-5:30 @ CCM

The Mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one "Common Cup" so that we may minister to those in need. For more information contact Common Cup Ministry at 320-587-2213 or commoncupmn@gmail.com

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Students served each week = 221
Cost per student per week = \$5
Cost per week = \$1,100
Remaining weeks in this school year = 12
Total expense remaining for this school year = \$13,260

HELP SUPPORT THE "BACK PACK" PROGRAM



The "backpack" program provides food over the weekend for students who receive free lunch during the week.

Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7.



LENTEN REQUEST

Faith Lutheran continues to collect fruit cups/applesauce cups as the items sponsored by our church. In order to provide each child with one fruit cup and one applesauce cup each weekend for the remainder of the school year, we will need to collect 450 six packs of applesauce and 675 four packs of fruit cups. Please consider helping provide these needed items for the children of McLeod County. Donations can be placed in the tote in the Common Cup Corner at either of the main entrances to the church.

You can sponsor a McLeod County elementary student for the whole year. \$200 will provide weekend food and school supplies.



Scholarship Time - Faith Lutheran has four scholarships for current high school seniors and college students. Application forms are available at the church and on the website at faithlc.com

Summer Intern Applications - Faith will again be hiring interns for the summer. Details and applications for that are also available at the church and on the website.

RUMMAGE SALE



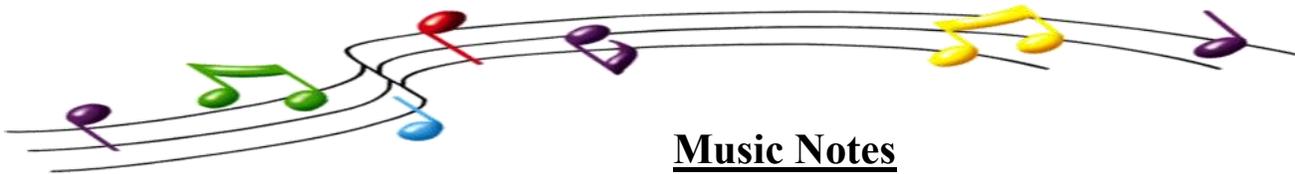
April
26, 27
and 28,
2018



Faith Lutheran Church Women

Close your eyes and dream of roomy organized closets, spacious rooms with furniture you no longer love gone, and boxes in the basement sorted. This can all be yours along with new treasures found at the annual rummage sale. With the cold weather still hanging around, it is a perfect time to set aside items, start your plant slips and think about how you can help. Thirty percent of the proceeds from the sale go toward the mortgage and the rest towards women's ministries and other church needs. You can start bringing your donations to the church on Monday, April 23.

YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS ARE NEEDED...AND MUCH APPRECIATED!



Music Notes

by Paul Cravens, Director of Music and Worship

Easter is always an exciting time for a church musician. This year, Faith's music ministry will continue many of its traditions, both new and old. The choirs of Faith and Christ the King will join forces for our combined Good Friday services. We will once again host a Holy Saturday service in a reflective, "Compline" style, followed by the triumph of Easter morning with four services. Look for FLY Band to participate on Easter, as well as throughout Lent on Wednesday evenings.



Mugs and Muffins

*Saturday, March 17 at 9:30 a.m.
Faith Center at Faith Lutheran Church*

Jeff and Theresa Schmidt and their family began a mission to help the homeless. Since their first trip on July 20, 2016 they have made 25 trips into Minneapolis.

They began Operation Hope with a goal to provide compassion, food and supplies to those living on the streets.

Come and hear the story of how this mission began, the support they have received from the community, and about the lives they have touched and those that have touched them.

You can get a sneak peek at the work they do on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/schmidtfamily.hutchinson or search Operation Hope.

Bring a mug, bring a friend and we will take care of the rest!



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 Meade, MA- 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
- Dave & Betty Jensen
- Joanne Olesen
- Charlie & Harriet Thor

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