

MAY 2018

# Faith Matters

## Pastors' Page

I missed Easter worship services this year, for the first time ever in my entire life. I was suffering through a miserable cold like so many of you have been enduring.

I learned first hand why many of our Senior members tell me things like, "I miss church." "It doesn't seem like Sunday." "We always went to church...never missed, unless we had to." They listen to the radio broadcasts of the services, and watch the channel 10 worship videos. Thank God for those.

But they assure me it's not the same. They feel an emptiness when they can't confess their sins, and can't hear, "Your sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake," together with fellow worshippers. They don't feel quite the same thrill of singing favorite hymns and liturgy, surrounded by friends of faith. Confessing one's faith using the creeds of the church just isn't the same when yours is the only voice you hear. Even the simple joy of placing an offering envelope in the offering plate is missing. And while the sermons are great, proclaiming the love and promises of God, they envy the people in the pews, with eyes and faces directed to the pulpit and the preacher.

Is there anything good to be said about all this? Yes, there is; and thankfully, you are a vital part of it. Your support of our Pastoral Care ministry is an amazing gift to these Seniors. Your pastors, along with Marsha Schmit, do everything possible to minister to them. We assure them God understands when they are unable to get to Sunday worship. We visit them monthly, bringing devotions from Scripture and Holy Communion. We hold communion worship at seniors' facilities, lead Bible studies at some. We send each of them the weekly Sunday bulletin, our monthly *Faith Matters*, and the quarterly devotion books—*Portals of Prayer*. We visit them when we hear they are hospitalized or have special needs.

Some of you visit them regularly as Befrienders. (We could use more Befrienders). Others visit regularly on your own. Some of you bring treats. Others of you send cards through our "Card Ministry," assuring the homebound they are not forgotten by their Faith Lutheran family. In these varied ministries, we are actually carriers of God's presence to them.

I am most grateful to serve as Visitation Pastor in partnership with a congregation that truly cares about all its members, including our elderly.

**"Bless The Years"** Sunday is a symbol of that vital ministry. We are celebrating our annual **Bless The Years Sunday on May 6**, at all three worship services. At the usual Digging Deeper hour, we'll share "Mingle Box," an intergenerational experience, with seniors (actually anyone) and confirmation students sitting around the table sharing together the deep things about God, based on questions drawn from the "Mingle Box." Don't miss that one! It takes place in the Faith Center between the 8:00 a.m. First Word worship and the two 10:10 services.

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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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Later in the year our Seniors' Task Force will provide some learning opportunities for you on some difficult aging issues. They are listed in "Seniors' Scene" elsewhere in this newsletter. Watch for announcements on when that takes place. We hope they are helpful for you, should you ever face them...and likely you will.

In sincere gratitude for you all in our Seniors' ministry partnership through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Paulus

## SENIORS' SCENE

Someone was saying to me, "It seems we just get started on the year's program and here we're down to the end." I agreed. It seems we just got our Seniors' Potluck program under way and now we're nearing the final program before we break for the summer. Time flies!

Another told me, "We always save the best for the last." She was referring to "Stump The Pastors." You may or may not agree. I know both you and the pastors take that program seriously as a time to learn and share. I've been watching my fellow pastors lately. I think they are "boning up." Their noses are in the books. I think they're hoping they will be ready for any questions you ask them.

Seriously, this is a great opportunity to explore anything that puzzles you about the Christian faith and its applications to our world and our faith life. There are no set subjects beforehand. Anything goes. So when something comes up in conversations, or during the night when you can't sleep that you wonder about ..... write it down, and bring it to the **next SENIORS' POTLUCK meeting on Thursday, May 31**. As always we'll begin at 12:00 noon with our potluck dinner. Come with ready minds, and bring a friend along.

Here's a word about something the Seniors' Task Force is planning for you this fall. We hope you filled out a survey on subjects that affect the lives of seniors. Having taken your responses seriously, we are planning some learning sessions on topics like:

- ⇒ How do I actually have a meaningful conversation with someone with dementia?
- ⇒ How do I come to grips with a devastating cancer diagnosis. How can my faith help me with that?
- ⇒ Caregiving is a very stressful experience. Does our congregation offer any support for that? How does that work?
- ⇒ Seniors experience serious "losses;" like the death of a spouse, an amputation, a need to leave my home of over 30 or 40 years, disabling illness; and many more. How can I make positive adjustments to these?
- ⇒ What if I have to make a life-threatening medical decision for a loved one, who is unable to do so; especially when there is no clear prognosis ahead? When should we ask the physician to withhold life support? Where is the line between that and physician assisted-suicide?

These are difficult issues, but ones frequently faced by you or people all around you. Your Seniors' Task Force believes some "airing out" in a learning session might be of some help. We'll give it a try, possibly at Digging Deeper this fall. Watch for notices.

# stump the pastor

*Q: Why don't we hear much about the Holy Spirit, except on Pentecost Day?*

A: According to Acts 2, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day to equip his disciples to spread the Gospel and build the Church. So, the Holy Spirit naturally gets top billing on the Day of Pentecost.

Beyond that, though, the role of the Holy Spirit is to point people to Christ as Savior. The Spirit creates faith to believe in Christ and speaks the Word of God into our hearts and minds, but that is "behind the scenes" work. Jesus himself described it that way. "When the spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears... He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 15:13-14)

We often acknowledge the Holy Spirit as the power source for faith, but the object of our faith is Jesus Christ. So, the Holy Spirit always points us to Jesus and gladly remains in the background.

Any analogy falls short, but the Holy Spirit's work might be something like a cinematographer. When we see a movie, how often do we have any idea who the cinematographer is? We focus on the actors. They are the stars of the show. Yet, it is the cinematographer who brings their scenes to life, makes them seem real and convinces us that we are watching something out of real life.

In the Christian faith, Jesus is the star of the show. Our focus is on him, while the Holy Spirit works to bring him to life for us, show us he *is* real and convinces us that, in Jesus, we not only see something real, but see the ultimate reality of God's will for the world.



## **Upon This Rock Capital Campaign**

I (Pastor Scott) was recently invited to speak to the board of Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Renewal) in Chicago. The group is working on ways to prepare future leaders and pastors for the church and wanted to learn how Faith Lutheran is trying to do that. I described our efforts to equip children with knowledge of the faith and leadership skills at each stage of their development. I started with B-2-3, the program that helps equip parents to start passing on the faith to very young children, and ended with the interns we host each summer to work in children and youth ministry. Lutheran CORE leaders were impressed by the range of our ministries, and our consistent efforts to build up children in the faith.

As I prepared that presentation, I realized how much these efforts are facilitated by the wonderful church building we have. Some ministry occurs here almost every day of the week. Not infrequently, Faith hosts several events at the same time. Your faithful, consistent support of capital campaigns like *Upon This Rock* make that space available for grounding and growing people in faith. **Thank You** for your generous support, now and in the future.



### **Defending the Faith** **from the 1<sup>st</sup> Century to the 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Christian Church had barely gotten started before a variety of false teachings began to threaten the Gospel, and false teachings remain a threat today. This study of I John will explore how the apostle defended the faith then and how his guidance can help us defend it today.



**A “Parenting Discussion Group”** with Pr. Dave and Andrea Wollan is meeting in the Office Conference Room.



### **Congratulations to our Seniors!**

On Sunday, May 20, there will be a recognition brunch for all graduating seniors of Faith Lutheran Church. Please RSVP to Gladys Nissen if you plan to attend the brunch. Students will also be recognized at the 10:10 Foundation Service.

#### **When you see these graduating students make sure to congratulate them:**

Cody Andersen, Mikayla Anderson, Brandon Barnaal, Mathew Binder, Kyle Christensen, Alexis Crims, Dylan Deopere, Olivia Dostal, Emily Ehlers, Annika Ellefson, Benjamin Hjerpe, Paige Jurek, Kaitlyn Kellerman, Tamika Krueger, Lizzy Lansink, Devon Markgraf, Tyler Miller, Jack Olberg, Maguire Petersen, Oscar Salazar III, Logan Teubert, Wyatt Teubert, Tanner Timm, Claire Trudeau, Evan Westlund, Emma Wollan and Brianna Wright.



### **Mingle Box Event** **Sunday, May 6 @ 9:15 a.m.** **in the Faith Center**

Please join us for the Mingle Box event, a Faith-based intergenerational conversation between our FLC confirmation students and the FLC adults.

Current confirmation students will lead a conversation based on topics contained in a small “Mingle Box,” ranging from favorite Bible verses or Bible stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God’s work in our life.

Join us for a wonderful time of witness to the power of God’s love and work in our lives and see firsthand that our future church is in good hands with the youth of today!  
Please join us!





## New Hope Mission Partners Reaching Out in Service

**Dr. Abdul Messiah**

### Reporting from the Mission Field in India

Bisharah workers in India are excited to hold another summer retreat for 200 children and families of prisoners in the month of May. 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 season! Our prison ministry is a blessing to all the families our team visits. In addition to food, clothing, and stationery, 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!



### Drought Creates Water Crisis

The region of Kerala will be soon out of potable water due to the receding water table and drought. In the next weeks, Bishara needs to clean its water reservoirs and make them ready to distribute water to the needy homes in the region. Bishara received very good feedback for a similar effort it conducted a couple years ago.



### Partnerships Can Be a Beautiful Thing

Recently, another class completed its studies at the Shaliach Bible College, a training program for witness that is made possible through the generosity of supporters of New Hope Mission Society. One of the graduates has determined that his call is to bear this witness in a very troubled land, Myanmar.

Dr. Christoph, with whom we at NHMS partner, reported that he will provide the support for this student's witness. Dr. Christoph was very thankful that we can work together to provide such witness. Pray for this young man's safety in face of likely strong objections to his witness for Christ.



This spring small group series will be wrapping up in a couple of weeks. If you missed a group meeting or were not able to connect with a group this time, please check out the videos and questions on the website at [FaithLC.com](http://FaithLC.com).



## **Mugs and Muffins**

*Saturday, May 19 at 9:30 a.m.  
Faith Center at Faith Lutheran Church*

*Speaker: Amy Paulson*

*Bring a mug, bring a friend,  
and we will do the rest.*

*See you there!*



A special thank you to everyone who donated items to sell at the FLCW Rummage Sale or baked goods for the bistro. Thank you to everyone who worked this annual event and those who found and bought new treasures. It takes many hands to make this event successful and all come with their own gifts and talents for making this event what it is. So THANK YOU! Keep an eye on your church bulletin for an update on the proceeds of the sale.



## **Save the date for the next Men of Faith event**

*Wednesday, June 6, beginning at 6 p.m.*

Location: If spring ever arrives,  
this will be an outdoor event at a local park.

**Speaker: Al Liepold**

The title of Al's journey: **Blessed are the Peace Keepers?**

Alan is a son, husband, and father. He is a veteran of the United States Army. A Patrol Sergeant and SWAT Team Leader for the McLeod County Sheriff's Office where he has been employed for over 20 years. He is a follower of Faith yet a sinner. Come hear his journey of faith in the eyes and heart of today's law enforcement.



# Thoughts and Prayers

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

Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA - son of Dawn Bos)

Sgt. Jason Gaulke (El Paso, TX - nephew of Alice Fransen)

Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Mason Rutledge (Navy, Norfolk, VA - son of Lenny & Patti Rutledge)

Pfc Anthony Settergren (MN National Guard, Kuwait - son of Richard and Jean Settergren)

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, MD - son of Roger & Laurie Wersal)



Remember our Faith members in  
nursing homes & health care centers:

## Buffalo Lake Nursing Home

Joan Fitzloff

## Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Bernice Vorbeck

Lucille Wehking

## Cottagewood (Buffalo)

Eleanor Lack

## Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

## Glencoe Nursing Home

Helen Sandlund

## Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Pearl Betker

Irene Christensen

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

## 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