

Faith Matters

JUNE 2018



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A Very *SPECIAL* Congregational Meeting

According to Faith Lutheran's constitution, any business meeting of the church other than the annual meeting in January is considered a "special" congregational meeting. The church council has called such a special congregational meeting for **Wednesday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary.

This particular meeting, however, is truly *special*, because the purpose of it is to approve the use of an amazingly generous bequest from the estate of Delores Saar. The church council has recommended two options for how to disburse these funds and the congregation will be asked to decide which option seems best.

As with all special congregational meetings, no other business will be conducted at this gathering and members must be present to vote. (The constitution does not allow proxy votes.) All confirmed members of Faith Lutheran Church are strongly encouraged to participate.

Plus, there is another *special* reason to come to Faith that evening. Before the meeting, FLY Youth will host its annual **Drive-In Diner** to support this summer's mission trip. So, come to eat supper between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to support a great ministry, and then stay for this wonderfully *special* congregational meeting.

**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.

Pastors' Page

Not long ago, I led a committal service for a person whose funeral had been held earlier, and I was struck by how contradictory it seemed. After a very late spring, the weather was finally warm. The grass was a gorgeous green and the trees were filling with leaves. There were signs of life all around.

Yet, we were gathered there around a painful reminder of death. Tears filled many eyes as the family's grief was stirred up by the burial service. There was no escaping that their loved one had been reduced to the ashes in an urn. It was a bitter experience of the finality of death.

But for as contradictory as that scenario might have seemed, it was a profoundly appropriate combination. For as the reality of death clashed with all the signs of life, so the promise of the Gospel broke into the cold, lifeless reality of death and

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completed the circle back to life. We read that day from I Corinthians 15, where St. Paul confided, “Lo, I tell you a mystery. We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable... Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’”

That is the great, transformative promise of the Gospel revealed on Easter. On Good Friday, the world was covered in an austere blanket of death. On Holy Saturday, all hope seemed to be extinguished; it felt as if death would never end. But on Sunday, life burst forth again and shattered the apparent permanence of death with the astounding reality of eternal life. For the life that broke out on Easter was not merely a season of growth, like the green grass and new leaves of spring that die off again the next winter. No, God the Father raised the lifeless, crucified body of Jesus to new and eternal life, crushing the power of death to hold him or any of those who believes in him.

Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have hope—undying, eternal hope. No matter how long or severe the winter of death may be, the springtime of resurrection is coming. We know it, because Christ Jesus was raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who belong to him. Death still does its worst, but it is no longer the last word. Jesus is the last word and there is no power left to thwart his will. As one of my favorite Easter hymns triumphantly declares,

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim demonic chorus, “Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the first and last is with us. Sing hosanna, everyone!

What joy! What hope! What assurance! What great good news! “Sing hosanna everyone” indeed!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott



There’s a New Pastor from the Faith Family!

Alexandra (Hjerpe) Smith, daughter of Kurt and Mona Hjerpe and a daughter of Faith Lutheran Church, was ordained into the public ministry of Word and Sacrament on May 17, in Sioux Falls. She has been called to serve a two-point parish in Webster and Waubay, SD. Congratulations, Allie! We pray God’s richest blessing on your ministry.

stump the pastor

Q: I heard a reference to “the long green season” in the Church. What does that mean?

A: The Christian calendar falls into two main parts. The first half, starting with Advent and ending with Holy Trinity Sunday, follows Jesus’ earthly life. During this half of the year, the seasons and the colors associated with them (blue in Advent, purple in Lent, etc.) change frequently.

The second half of the church year, from the Sunday after Holy Trinity until Christ the King Sunday at the end of November, focuses on Jesus’ teaching and events from his ministry. It is all one long season, lasting up to 27 weeks depending on when Easter falls, and the only color throughout is green. We call this time “the Sundays after Pentecost.” Other churches may refer to it as “Sundays after Trinity” or “Ordinary Time.” After the frequent changes of season and color in the first half of the year, the unitary nature of the second half has been affectionately called “the long, green season.”

There is a deeper meaning to that title, however. The emphasis on Jesus’ ministry and teaching in the second half of the church year is designed to help us grow in faith, understanding and obedience to Christ. Since green is the color of growth and life in nature, it was attached to this season as a weekly reminder of the purpose of it. So, as the world has burst forth again in glorious, green growth, Christians enter into this season praying that Jesus’ words and examples will cause the same kind of spiritual growth in our lives.



Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

Someone recently brought in a copy of the *Diamond Jubilee* history of Faith Lutheran (still called Main Street Lutheran then), written for its 75th anniversary in 1945. It was fascinating to read about the early history of the church and its situation at that point in its history. One notable detail from the book was that, as part of its 75th anniversary events, the church celebrated the retirement of all the debt on the “new” sanctuary, the one built in 1938 that we still use.

For the last few years, Faith has been holding out the possibility of paying off the mortgage on the new building addition by 2020, as one great way to celebrate the 150th anniversary, but we had no idea that retiring a mortgage had also been part of the 75th anniversary. What a marvelous parallel it would be if this church could mark two anniversaries, 75 years apart, with a similar sign of faithful stewardship of the gifts entrusted to it!

Your faithful and generous support of the Upon This Rock capital campaign brings Faith closer and closer to this goal. THANK YOU for your investment in this facility for ministry.

SENIORS' SCENE

Got a question? Write it down, or hold it in your memory. Maybe it's something for which you always wanted to find an answer. Perhaps you woke up during the night, couldn't sleep, and suddenly found yourself asking, "I wonder why...?" When you get out of bed, write it down. It might be something many people want to know.

It's questions of faith we're referring to, of course. People have always had questions like that. Remember these in Scripture: "What must I do to be saved?" "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God?" "Is it OK to heal on the sabbath?" "Where is the King of the Jews to be born?" "Why do I have to suffer like this?" (Psalmist) Lots more.

We don't ask to get pat answers. We ask because in so doing we enter the realms of God's mysteries. Sometimes answers come forth. Sometimes we just end up on awe at God's mysterious wisdom.

So we arrive at "Stump The Pastors." It's our final Seniors' Potluck meeting of the program year. We recess until next September. The meeting is 12:00 noon, on Thursday, May 31st.

We hope you can be there; even if you can't think of any questions until after the meeting is adjourned. Bring a friend. Perhaps he or she will have a question to STUMP THE PASTORS.



You're Invited!

Margaret Grorud (Pastor Scott's mother) is celebrating her 90th birthday with an informal open-house reception on Saturday, June 9, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Faith Center. If you are able, she would love to have you attend. No gifts, please.



Sunday Summer Schedule - Worship in the Park

The First Word Service will continue weekly at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary.

With summer finally bringing us warmer temperatures, we are able to move to Library Square for the 10:10 worship services.

Grab a chair or blanket, bring a neighbor or a friend and meet at Library Square for weekly worship.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be moved back to the sanctuary. Please listen to the 8 a.m. broadcast announcements or watch the Faith Lutheran Church Facebook page to learn if the service will come indoors.

Outdoor Worship

**Sundays at 10:10 a.m.
May 27 - September 2**



Mission Partners at Bishara Center Honor Ellen Juul

Ellen Juul, a member of FLC and secretary of the board of New Hope Mission Society, died recently. Ellen, a humble witness to her Lord, was generous in her support of NHMS' outreach to Muslims in southern India. In gratitude for her part in this mission, leaders of the Bishara Center and the Shaliach's Bible College are naming a portion of the facilities there in Ellen's honor.

Dorothy Desens, NHMS President, along with Ellen's sister, and her sister's son-in-law, will travel to India for the June dedication. Pray for their safe journey and for a blessed time for this special event.

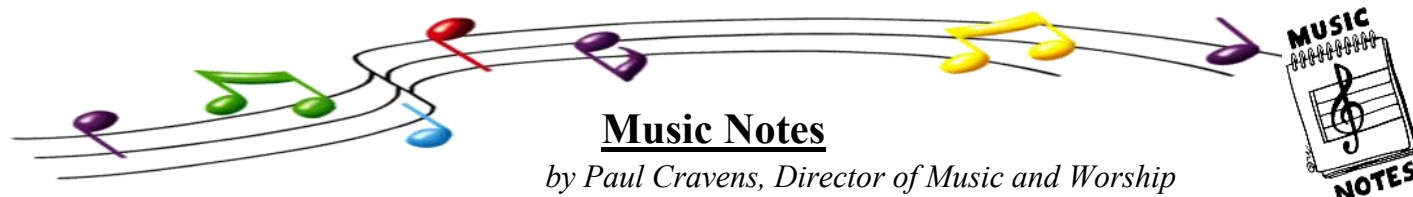


Did You Know?

- * On any given Sunday there will be more Christians at worship in China than in all of "Christian" Europe.
- * In 1910, there were 12 million Christians on the continent of Africa. By 2020, that number is expected to reach 630 million.

Questions to Ponder

- * Why do you suppose people in China in great numbers will risk persecution to worship God, while in Europe magnificent cathedrals are often becoming more tourist centers than places to be filled in worship?
- * Do you suppose Africa just might be blessed with this massive increase in Christians serving and leading in communities and nations of this continent?



Music Notes

by Paul Cravens, Director of Music and Worship

I regretfully announce that I have submitted my resignation from the position of Director of Music and Worship at Faith Lutheran Church. I will continue to serve for the summer, in the hope that a new director can be found and hired in that time.

I am leaving because I have been given a chance to actualize my composition career and to pursue it in earnest. Composing music has long been my passion, and the opportunity now before me is one that I cannot refuse. Although I have enjoyed the prospect of creating new music for the church as part of my duties here, I will now be able to concentrate all my efforts on composition, and to use that gift to its fullest potential. There is much work I can do for the Kingdom of God in this way.

I am incredibly grateful for the blessing that Faith has been to me during my time here. Friendships created and deepened, skills acquired and honed, theology learned and practiced – these are just a few of the many things I will take with me when I go. I will particularly miss working with the choir. I could not ask for better co-workers or a more appreciative congregation, and I hope I have likewise given you something of lasting value.

I wish and pray for all the best for Faith in the future. This is a truly inspiring place, and I hope it continues to be for many years to come, until our Lord returns.

In Christ,
Paul Cravens



Men of All Ages Are Invited to the Next Men of Faith Event

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

Location: This will be an outdoor event at a local park,
watch your bulletin for location details.

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 Christ, yet a sinner. Come hear his journey of faith in the eyes and heart of today's law enforcement.



*Thank
you*

A huge thank you to all the men and women who helped us set up for the rummage sale, run the rummage sale, and tear down after the sale. We could not have done it without you. The youth who helped set up and tear down were phenomenal. They earned money for their mission trips this summer. Also, thanks to the Hospital Thrift Shop, Twice Is Nice Thrift Shop, Library, Common Cup, Orphan Grain Train, the high school shoe project, and the DAV for shopping at the end and taking remaining inventory. Donations were tremendous again. Thank you to everyone who donated to our sale. Because the spring weather did not cooperate this year, our plant sale was delayed for a couple of weeks. It was held on May 19 in the church parking lot. Again, thank you to everyone for donating and shopping. Our total sales for both the rummage sale and plant sale was \$10,123.25. The money from these sales goes toward our mortgage, church projects, and community projects. We tried some new things this year. Look for more exciting changes next year.

The Rummage Sale Committee

**COMMON
CUP
CORNER**

Hutchinson

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

Website: www.common-cup.org

Glencoe

1022 12th St E Ste 100
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-5511

Community Meal
Sunday, June 3
4-6 p.m.

Fare for All Delivery

Thursday, June 28 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Orders are due by Friday, 6/22.

Monthly special:

Eight 6 ounce steaks for \$16.

Please donate your unused, road-ready bikes to **Wheels of Mercy**, which is a program organized and administered through CtK.



The **Summer Feeding Program** is free for children 18 & younger. It kicks off on **June 11** and runs through **August 17**. Food will be served **M-F at Park Elem. 11:30-12:30** and **Middle School from 11-12:30**.

It is that time of year again when Common Cup Ministry starts looking to purchase **tents and sleeping bags** to be given to homeless or others in need of interim shelter. If you would like to donate either of these items, money to purchase them, or money to cover a few nights camping at Riverside Park, please contact Bev at the CCM office.



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)

Petty Officer 3rd 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 (Minneapolis/St. Paul 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)

Buffalo Lake Nursing Home

Joan Fitzloff

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Bernice Vorbeck

Lucille Wehking

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Glencoe Nursing Home

Helen Sandlund

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Pearl Betker

Irene Christensen

Dave & Betty Jensen

Ruth Moen

Joanne Olesen

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Oaks

Verla Biddle

Arlyce Drahos

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

Pines

Margaret Grorud

Helen Hansen

Don Sennes

Doris Strand

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Prairie View (Hector)

Jerome Lindquist

Woodstone

Don Fitzgerald

Betty Garberich

Lucille Yukel

Faith Lutheran Church

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Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
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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