

# Faith Matters

## AUGUST 2018

### Pastors' Page

A few weeks ago, the Sunday edition of the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* featured the first in a series of articles called "Test of Faith: The Unchurched of America." It chronicled the decline and closure of churches in rural and urban Minnesota. The article failed to tell the whole story in a number of ways. It focused only on mainline denominations that are suffering the steepest losses, and did not address how major shifts in theology and doctrine have accelerated membership losses in those denominations.

Still, the overall reality cannot be denied. The Christian Church in our country is declining in membership, worship attendance and public influence. And that is only one example in a seemingly incessant stream of bad news for Christianity. We hear over and over that the "nones," those who claim no religious faith, are the fastest growing group of people in the U.S. Accounts of scandalous behavior by church leaders and members litter the news. It is socially acceptable to ridicule Christ and the Church openly and bitterly. The list goes on and on, and it can quickly become very discouraging.

How should Christians respond to this onslaught of disparagement of the faith we believe is ultimately true and good? First of all, do not be surprised by it. The words of Jesus that first appear in Matthew 10:22 are repeated often: "You will be hated by all because of my name." There have always been varying levels of hostility to Christ and the Church in a world broken by sin.

On the other hand, never forget that the Lord we worship endured the worst this world could inflict on him, and then God raised him from the dead! The world has no ultimate power over Christ, and therefore we who belong to Him do not have to fear the world. Jesus promised us exactly that in John 16:33. "I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world."

Beyond that, thank God constantly for sparing Faith Lutheran any serious decline or harassment. This is a vital, missional church that is free to proclaim the good news of Jesus boldly and without fear, and there are many more churches like ours. To paraphrase Mark Twain's quip when he saw his own obituary in the newspaper, "The reports of (the Church's) death are greatly exaggerated."

At the same time, though, we dare not take Faith's health and strength for granted. Not all the signs of Faith are positive. Too few of our members worship regularly, every year our budget depends on a massive year-end rescue, ownership of the church's ministry does not extend widely enough. Any church will remain healthy only as long as her people faithfully receive God's gifts in worship and pursue His will with conviction. Our ongoing devotion to the ministry Christ has entrusted to us is essential not only for Faith's well-being, but our own faith and spiritual strength, as well.

~ 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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## **Pastor's Page** *(continued from page 1)*

Finally, don't play by the world's rules. I Peter 3:14-16 urges us, "Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame." Witness warmly to Christ. Share his love. Be a living contradiction of the false stereotypes of the Church, for the truth will always overcome falsehood.

In John 14:1, Jesus assured his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." As we confront various challenges to Christianity in our day, Christ Jesus speaks those same comforting words to us, for He is Lord of heaven and earth, and nothing can ever change that!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott

## **stump the pastor**

*Q: What does the phrase "born again" really mean?*

A: The idea of being born again comes from John 3, where Jesus told Nicodemus, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again." Those last two words can also be

translated "born anew" or "born from above." To be born again describes the radical new life that God grants us through forgiveness of sin and faith in Christ.

The confusion comes from how various churches describe the process of being "born again." In what are called Evangelical churches, being born again is tied to the specific moment when a person decided to accept Jesus as his or her personal Savior. The focus is entirely on when and where an individual made that decision. If you are ever asked if you are born again, the questioner is likely wanting you to name that moment in your life.

Lutherans, however, would never make any part of our salvation in Christ dependent on anything we say, do or decide. As sinners, we aren't able to make that decisive move toward Christ and, moreover, we never would. Christ comes to us, forgiving our sin and granting us faith in His promises, putting us to death in our sin and raising us to new life.

So, along with most parts of the Christian Church, we confess that we are born again in Holy Baptism. In that sacrament, God graciously brings our death forward, drowning the sinner we are by birth and raising us up to a whole new life in Christ. If someone does ask you if you are born again, be sure you know the date of your baptism and you will have a ready answer.

Our need to be re-born in Christ, though, is not a one-time event. Baptism never needs to be repeated, but what God did in our baptism needs to be renewed every day. Martin Luther wrote in the *Small Catechism*, "the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil desires, should be drowned by daily sorrow for sin and repentance and be put to death, and ... the new person should come forth every day and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." That is what it means to be born again, day after day after day, as a baptized child of God!



## **Servant Leaders Working with Other Servant Leaders Bring Joy to Many** *Reflections from Pastor Paul*

Being with you at Faith Lutheran and in the Augustana District gives me ever new opportunities to see partnerships with servants of our Savior, Jesus Christ, near and far, quietly and joyfully at work.

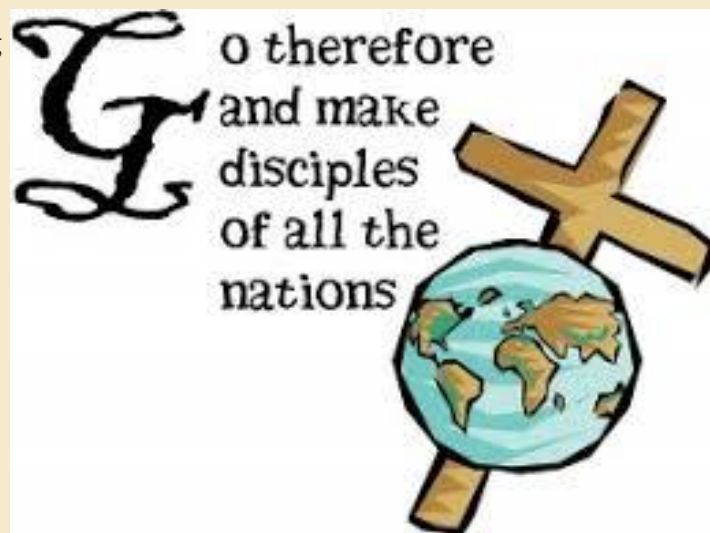
These past weeks have been days of special joy on many fronts. First, it was a time of joy to see this congregation commit \$45,000 to help others meet critical facility needs. This gift represented a tithe of a very generous bequest from the estate of Delores Saar. The spirit of open hands rather than clenched fists brought joy to us even as it will bring huge benefits to our servant partners near and far. Decisions still to be made will lay out in various ways what will be accomplished and how FLC's gift will be multiplied.

We already know how \$15,000 of this gift will go to work with two partners in Ethiopia. Through the Tabor Congregation of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, \$13,500 will cover 70% of their two highest priorities for two of their Outreach Centers. Land will be purchased and a house of worship will be built. Tabor is committed to raising the other 30%. I wish you could have the privilege I have to read the expressions of profound gratitude and joy our servant leadership brings to them in this gift. The same is true of the leaders of the North Central Ethiopia Synod, who received a gift of \$1,500 to help one of its congregations pursue finishing a new, modest but important house of worship.

Then there are the leaders of the Lutheran Church in Estonia. Here we witness again servant leaders stepping out in faith, believing that it is ever so important to train a new generation of pastors to bear witness to Jesus Christ in this now secular/atheistic country. They have ventured forth in providing new facilities desperately needed for their seminary. Trusting in our Lord and receiving encouragement from other communities of faith, they have put \$125,000 down on the building. In the next year they will need another \$1,200,000 to complete this endeavor. FLC's gift of \$15,000 from the estate noted above will bring a small but vitally important expression of encouragement to the servant leaders there.

The Augustana District looks to join us in multiplying these gifts. More will be reported to you as their decisions are made. Having the partnerships of many AD congregations and families will bring us at Faith joy, as they will for our partners in faraway place.

Portions of this estate gift will also go to local partners and to the work of New Hope Mission Society and its work in India. More on that will follow soon.





## Faith Groups to ramp up in September

Life is short! And in this busy, technological world people are often lonely. Cell phones, computers, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the like just don't fill the gap of interaction with real human beings. Fellowship in small groups is one of God's answers to loneliness.

Faith groups will get underway again beginning the week of September 9, and will meet for seven sessions to discuss "Impossible: Are *All* Things Possible with God?" The teaching videos are written and delivered by Pastors Scott Grorud and Dave Wollan. A booklet, complete with a devotion for each week written by members of Faith Lutheran Church, is currently being prepared by Marsha Schmit. Discussion questions are also included in the booklet.

Contact Marsha Schmit by phone, 587-2093, or e-mail at [marshas@faithlc.com](mailto:marshas@faithlc.com) to join or lead a small group this fall.



Marsha Schmit,  
Director of  
Pastoral Care and  
Evangelism.

Recognizing and  
appreciating 20  
years of service at  
Faith Lutheran  
Church.

Thank you for all  
that you do!



### Sunday Summer Schedule

The First Word Service continues weekly at 8 a.m. in the sanctuary.  
The 10:10 a.m. services will be at Library Square through September 2.

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 need to move indoors.

# WOMEN OF THE WORD



## WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?



### Colossians 3:12

*Dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

**Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Peace Lutheran Church, Watertown, MN**

An opportunity to meet, worship, serve, laugh and learn with other women from other Augustana District churches. All women of Faith Lutheran are invited. Information and registration forms are available at the church and on the [AugustanaDistrict.org](http://AugustanaDistrict.org) website. Contact the church office if you are interested in carpooling. The FLCW has offered to assist with the registration fee for those who want to attend but for whom cost is a concern.



Thank you to everyone who donated the delicious pies for Music in the Park on July 2. It was a beautiful night and people had a hard time picking which pie to try.



### Men of Faith

Wednesday, August 8  
at 6 p.m. in the Faith Center  
Speaker: Marlin Torgerson



Well known for his public service in Hutchinson, Marlin Torgerson will present his faith story titled, "An Instrument God Has Chosen" on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at Faith Lutheran Church. Marlin has served on numerous committees and boards in the Hutchinson community. Many people know him from his service as Mayor of the City of Hutchinson. The title of his presentation reflects the many ways Marlin has served his family, church, and community. A little humbled by the title, Marlin said, "I have seldom consciously recognized all the ways that God has used me, but have always had the feeling of His presence. He has blessed me and also tested me." The event will start with supper at 6:00 p.m. in the Faith Center. Barry Anderson, a member of Faith Lutheran Church, will give the opening devotion. All men from the church and community are welcome and urged to attend.



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.



## Hutchinson

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

Website: [www.common-cup.org](http://www.common-cup.org)

## Glencoe

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

Fundraiser for  
Common Cup  
Ministries  
Sat., August 18,  
8-11 a.m. at the  
Aquatic Center!

## Community Meal

To be served  
by the Worship  
Ministry Team on  
Sunday, Aug. 5  
from  
4-6 p.m. at Faith  
Lutheran Church

Fare for All  
Delivery  
Thursday,  
Aug. 23,  
from  
3:00-5:00  
p.m.



School Supply Distribution takes place  
**Wed., Aug. 22, 3-6:30 p.m. @CrossPoint**  
Church in Hutchinson and Lincoln  
School in Glencoe. Needed supply lists and family  
request slips can be found in the Common Cup  
Corner by the doors at Faith and all donations can  
be dropped off there. **Please consider donating 1"**  
**3-ring binders, pencil bags that fit in 3-ring bind-**  
**ers, highlighters, 4-packs of dry erase markers, or**  
**backpacks. Thank you!**



**You may see it in the bulletin every month but, do you know what the "Free Community Meal" is?** Faith Lutheran works with Common Cup Ministries, Hunger Free McLeod and other churches in town to make sure that residents of McLeod County don't go hungry. Many churches in town participate in this program. Some serve a breakfast once a month, some a lunch and others a supper. Here at Faith, we serve the free meal on the first Sunday evening of each month. Different groups host the meal by prepping, serving and cleaning up. Some get funding through

Thrivent, some donate or ask for donated food from the congregation and some use community meal funding. All members of Faith Lutheran and the community are invited to attend. Come, share a meal with a neighbor and show the generous and caring nature of Faith Lutheran Church. ***At this time, no one has committed to serving the October, November or December meals. If you or your group, friends, or family would be willing to host one of these meals, there are many in the community that would be grateful to you. Please call the office at 320-587-2093 and pick a date to help serve your neighbors today!***

**Pictured below are some of the grateful guests of the July Community Meal.**





# 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 (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, Camp Pendleton, CA - 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

## Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

## Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Pearl Betker

Verla Biddle

Irene Christensen

Dave & Betty Jensen

Ruth Moen

Joanne Olesen

Charlie & Harriet Thor

## Oaks

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

### INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

#### Pastors

Scott Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
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Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
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Paul Knudson	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
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Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
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Keith Lange, Maintenance	
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Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net
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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