

Faith Matters 2018

September



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Pastor's Page

"Impossible is nothing."

That's a slogan we read on inspirational posters or hear declared on shoe or sports drink commercials. It is usually depicted with a sweaty athlete, or determined looking mountain climber, or Muhammad Ali.

Its meaning is clear. The only limitations we have are those we perceive. If we work hard, if we think bigger, if we reach for the stars, those limitations disappear. Nothing is impossible! Impossible is nothing.

As Ali once famously declared, "Impossible is just a big word thrown around by small men who find it easier to live in the world they've been given than to explore the power they have to change it. Impossible is not a fact. It's an opinion. Impossible is not a declaration. It's a dare. Impossible is potential. Impossible is temporary. Impossible is nothing."

It sounds good. It makes for a good quote or meme. It might even inspire me to do an extra set of push-ups (nah), but the fact is: it isn't true. Impossible is *not* nothing.

Impossible is something.

We live in a finite world, and we are finite creatures. We have limitations. We have boundaries. I just watched a movie in which the hero climbed a rope (twice) to get into a helicopter, got into a bruising fist-fight with a massive bad guy--at a high elevation, no less--and then scaled a 20-foot cliff in 20 seconds to disarm a nuclear bomb. No wonder why the movie was called Mission Impossible! And while the movie hero accomplished all of these things, the realist in me thought, "There's no way he could physically be able to do that!" There are limits!

And there are even more daunting limits than ropes and cliffs. Think you can cast out demons? Think you can conquer death? Think you can earn your way to salvation? Think again. No amount of striving, or straining, or pushing, or discipline is going to help you. It is impossible. You've met your match. Impossible is something.

Unless you're God.

"For man it is impossible, but not with God," Jesus said in Mark 10:27.

"For all things are possible with God." For God, impossible truly is nothing.

Continued on page 2



**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.

Inside this issue:

Stump the Pastor	2
Digging Deeper	3
More Adult learning Opportunities	4
Seniors' Scene	5
Missions	7
Prayers and Staff Directory	9
Calendar	Insert
FLYouth	Insert
Faith Kids	Insert
<i>And Much More!</i>	

Pastor's Page (Continued from page 1)

Those were bold words by Jesus. It makes for a good quote or meme, but is it true? **Are all things possible with God?** It's important that we know for sure, because, as Lutherans, we bank on God's ability to do the impossible. We totally rely on his ability to take a wretch like me and save me through his amazing grace. We totally rely on his ability one day to take our dry bones from the ground and raise us up. We totally rely on him doing the impossible, taking broken sinners and making us new.

So come, join us this fall, and hear how the Impossible is Nothing for God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hear of the impossible things he has done for you. Explore them further in one of our Faith Groups, hear it from the pulpit. Know your limits, and then know of his limitless love and grace and mercy for you.

See you in church,
Pastor Dave

stump the pastor

Q: What do people mean when they talk about "prophecy" in the Bible?

A: Among Christians, the term prophecy is used in two different ways that are only slightly related and it causes some confusion. The original meaning of the word is the messages from God that the prophets delivered to Israel and the early church.

They addressed the people in their current situation, often warning them to repent of their sin, while assuring them of God's steadfast love, despite their sin.

In doing so, however, many prophecies also included promises of what God would do in the future. Because of that, "prophecy" came to be equated with "prediction," as if its main or only purpose was to predict the future. Outside of the church, prophecy is used almost exclusively today to mean predicting the future, even though that was not the prophets' main job.

That led to the other use of prophecy, which has become very common today. People who try to "de-code" the book of *Revelation* and other apocalyptic passages in the Bible in order to predict how the world will end and when Christ will return often describe their teaching as "prophecy." Such efforts, though, have little to do with the original prophecy inspired by God.

In fact, trying to predict the future on the basis of certain Bible texts is a futile task, because Jesus himself told us that not even he knew when that would be. "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matt. 24:36). It is also a misuse of those apocalyptic texts, which were not written as a "secret code" to the future, but to promise that God will finally save His people. It also leads to endless analysis of obscure Bible texts, rather than clear proclamation of the Gospel. I think we do well to pay lots of attention to Biblical prophecy and very little to what goes by the name of "prophecy" today.

While we're at it, here is another source of confusion. The messages the prophets declared are called *prophecy* (with a -c- and pronounced *prof-eh-see*). The act of speaking those messages was to *prophesy* (with an -s- and pronounced *prof-eh-sigh*). Watch out for the -c- (the noun) or the -s- (the verb) and you will know which pronunciation to use!

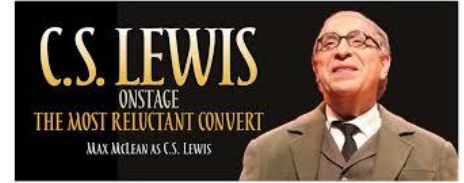


Have you ever been a part of a Bible Study? Would you like to dig deeper into your faith? This fall there are a number of adult learning opportunities. Which one will you dig into this fall?

Digging Deeper returns at 9:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings starting September 9.

C.S. Lewis: The Most Reluctant Convert

C.S. Lewis was a remarkably insightful Christian writer and teacher of the faith in the last century, but he began his adult life as a confirmed atheist. *The Most Reluctant Convert* is a one-man stage show in which Max McLean uses Lewis' own words to relate how God brought him to faith. Come to watch this masterful portrayal (on DVD) and discuss how Lewis' experience relates to our own. Meeting in the office conference room.



Growing a Strong Marriage: Working Together

Join Pastor Dave as we explore how you can “grow a stronger marriage,” by working together in communication and conflict resolution. Meeting in the third floor conference room.

HOPE, WHEN AGING IS NOT SO “GOLDEN” *(Meeting in the Faith Center)*

Your Seniors Task Force is offering four opportunities to understand some of the pressing issues aging people and their loved ones face. This is in response to a limited survey on topics you said you would like to learn more about. The world of the elderly is sometimes referred to as the “*Golden Years*,” but many who are in their elder years dispute that designation. Many of our people are facing tough issues every day they live. So these September Digging Deeper issues are timely and pertinent. Our hope is that through our faith in God and the resources of those who understand these issues in depth, we can have more solid foundations to withstand them in an upbeat spirit. Thus the title: “**HOPE, When Aging Is Not So Golden.**”

We are fortunate to have members of our congregation who are deeply engaged in these issues professionally. They can help us to understand things like chronic pain and dementia, caregiving and aging losses, so that we can be better prepared to cope and function when aging losses face us. Here is a brief summary of the topics:

Sunday, September 9 “Living With Chronic Pain” Presented by Joy May

Whether it's nagging back pain, arthritis, or cancer symptoms, I wake up each day wondering how I am going to cope with that ever present discomfort, interfering with everything I want to do. Are there some “tricks of the trade” I can learn to help me cope with every day pain? Joy May will help articulate the problems and offer down to earth solutions.

Sunday, September 16 “Understanding & Living with Dementia” Presented by Julie Reginek

Dementia, including Alzheimer's, is one of the most difficult problems we face in aging. We feel so helpless when a relative repeats constantly, forgets things and doesn't realize it, and seems to have become an entirely different person. Can we relate to a person with dementia productively, and truly enjoy it? Come and learn how to have fruitful conversation with loved ones who have dementia.

Sunday, September 23 “Support for Caregivers” Marsha Schmit, Pastor Pilgrim & others

“Caregivers” are some of the most heroic and stressed persons on the planet. Life has forced upon them some difficult pressures due to caring for loved ones with intensive needs. Where can they get help, support and encouragement for something that is essentially a 24/7 job? We'll offer some practical, day-to-day suggestions to give caregivers the help they need.

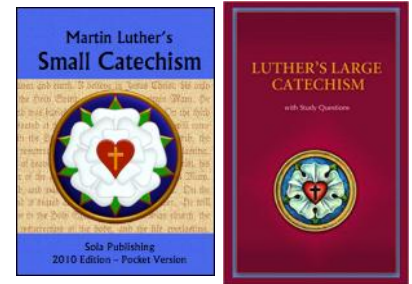
Sunday, September 30 “Seniors Coping with Aging Losses” Pastor Pilgrim and friends

What if I lose my vision? What if my legs give out and I can never walk again? What will happen if I have to sell my home and live elsewhere? Hear from some who have faced such challenging losses, and learned how to enjoy life in new ways.

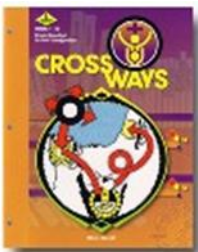
“Faith Seeks Understanding” **More Learning Opportunities for Adults**

Martin Luther’s *Two* Catechisms

Most Lutherans are familiar with Luther’s *Small Catechism*. Much less known is the *Large Catechism*, which provides a more extensive study of the same central truths of Christianity.



Explore the power and genius of these two invaluable texts on Monday mornings, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, starting September 10, 2018. Anyone is welcome to attend, so join us and invite a friend to come with you. Copies of the *Large Catechism* are available for \$12.00. Tell us by September 2 that you plan to attend and we will have copies ready for you at the first session.



Crossways Bible Studies Return

A new *Crossways* Bible study will begin in September. *Crossways* is a “big picture” study of the entire Bible. It includes an overview of each book within a framework that shows the Bible’s “big story.” It combines Bible reading, commentary, and illustrations to show how the Bible fits together. Want to know your Bible better? *Crossways* is for you!

Crossways classes meet for 20 weeks per year for 3 years.

Year 1—The NEW class will begin on **Sunday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Faith Center. Talk to Pastor Scott to sign up for this new class or to get more information.

Year 2 will resume on Monday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Year 3 will resume on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Here is what some past and current Crossways participants say about the course:

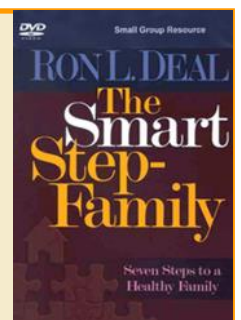
“Replace your confusion with clarity as Pastor Scott takes you on an eye opening journey through Crossways and the history surrounding the events of the Bible.”
- Shawn Anderson

Year one of Crossways left me eager for year two and three... Find out what you don't know about the Judges, Kings and biblical figures we thought we knew.” - Gail Telecky

“I am so glad I listened to others' recommendations about Crossways! I have truly loved digging deeper for a better understanding and grasp of the Bible. So many 'So that's why' and 'Now I get it' moments.”
- Mary Hodson

The Smart Step-Family

Returning **in October**, this series gives step-families tools that will help them to navigate the unique make-up and challenges of step-families. Classes will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning October 4. Pre-registration will be required so that materials can be ordered for each participant. Watch your bulletin, Facebook and the website for more details as they become available.



Sponsored in part by Thrivent through a Community Action Grant.





Are All Things Possible With God?



What are Faith Groups? Faith Groups are short-term, video-based, small group discussions around key topics of the faith. Stimulating, but not intimidating, they are a great opportunity to grow in faith and strengthen community. Groups meet at various times throughout the week. To find a Faith Group that fits you, call the church office. To learn about the how and why of Faith Groups, see the Faith Group Focus insert in this newsletter.

The new Fall Faith Group Series will take a look at this challenging topic *beginning the week of September 9*. You won't want to miss it!

Here is a "sneak peak" at the topics for this series:

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Topic/Issue</u>
September 9	Mark 9:14-28	Chronic Conditions
September 16	Mark 9:30-37	The Lure of Status
September 23	Mark 9:38-50	Condemning Contradictions
September 30	Mark 10:2-16	Broken Marriages/Broken People
October 7	Mark 10:17-22	The Root of All Evil
October 14	Mark 10:32-40, 46-52	Be Careful What You Ask For!
October 21	Mark 10:23-31	The Narrowest Door!

Seniors' Scene

Fall is approaching. Summer is slowly coming to an end. School kids are anticipating returning to classes, homework, and sports, some with sad looks, others with smiles. The Minnesota state fair seems to be a signal that we are switching from hot to cooler weather...maybe. Around the church offices, your staff is planning what's up ahead, with another challenging theme, ***"Impossible...Are All Things Possible With God?"*** as Jesus promised us?

And guess what, **Seniors' Potluck meetings** will begin again, on **Thursday, September 27**. Your Potluck steering committee is planning nine months of interesting programs for you. We hope you will look forward to them. We hope to put a meeting calendar in your hands at our September meeting, so you can put it in a prominent place in your home to remind you. You can also give a copy to friends you would like to share the good times.

Our September meeting should grab our attention. Becca Desens, granddaughter of Dick and Dorothy Desens will tell of her experiences in Haiti. To use Dorothy's words:



"Becca was approached by several fellow students at the University of Minnesota to help them develop a business plan for a project to help end severe poverty of farmers in Haiti. By using a grass native to Haiti their plan will help soil erosion and provide an income for the farmers. This plan won a silver medal in the American Acara Challenge Competition. Becca will share her volunteer experiences as she worked with farmers in the mountains of Haiti."

Seniors Potluck begins with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. See you there!!



Join us for Mugs & Muffins

September 15 is our next Mugs & Muffins gathering. This month we will have Faith member, Richard Settergren, share his faith story. Our time together begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. ***Bring a mug, bring a friend and we'll take care of the rest!***



Annual Cakewalk

Calling all bakers! Dust off your favorite recipes for cakes, cupcakes, cookies and bars. The annual Fall Extravaganza is right around the corner and we are looking for people to donate sweet treats for the cakewalk. Please bring donated goodies to the church by 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 9.

2018 Augustana District WOW (Women of the Word) Gathering

Saturday, September 15 beginning at 9 a.m. (registration begins at 8)

Registration forms are available in the church office and are due by September 1. The FLCW has offered to pay the registration fee and carpooling is available.

Please contact the office or Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227 if interested in attending or if you need more information.



FLCW Board Meeting: Monday, September 17, at 4:30 p.m. in the office conference room.

Gift Surveys

Did you know that I am often approached by staff and church members for ideas of “who to ask” when looking for volunteers? The gift surveys that you have filled out in the past are a very valuable tool for me and the staff, and I appreciate people giving me an idea of where their passions lie. Watch for the opportunity to fill out a new survey during worship in September! It’s been several years since the last one was completed, and I know how things can change in your life – so please take the time to fill one out!

Thank you!

Marsha



The Mission of Money

As we gear up for all the ministries that resume in the fall, it is a wonderful reminder of all the opportunities God provides for us through Faith Lutheran to proclaim the Gospel and help people grow in faith. Meeting those opportunities is made possible by generous, faithful offerings from the people of this church. During the summer, giving to Faith fell well short of expenses. Please examine with much prayer how God has blessed you to be a blessing to others, and give as God has enabled you, so that our congregation can avoid a financial crisis and continue to minister boldly for Jesus’ sake.





“You Still Have Rice, But Soon No Way to Cook It.” One of Many Dilemmas for our New Hope Mission Society Partners Facing Devastating Floods

The picture gives you the big picture. Dr. Abdul, his father, Pastor K.K. Alavi, and their team at Bishara have been working tirelessly to try to alleviate a small portion of the damage done by the massive flooding. It is the worst monsoon season in

memory, causing untold destruction of homes but also the loss of a great many lives.

Abdul shares that “we are engaged in providing packaged water, blankets, food, clothes and medications to these people, along with government and other missions seeking to respond. The episode is persisting with tragic consequences.

Bishara itself has been spared with very little physical destruction. The Bible College continues to function, with teachers and students residing on campus on higher ground.

Abdul has recently reported, however, to Dorothy Desens, President of NHMS, that while Bishara still has basic rice for food, it still faces an impending crisis. To save money, the Center has relied on burning wood to cook the rice, but now dry wood is no longer available. When the current propane gas runs out, there is no more available to obtain in the area. It is hard for us to imagine facing such a dilemma.

Faith’s Church in the World ministry team and Church Council are supporting a simple invitation for anyone wishing to respond with a financial gift to direct that to our mission partner, the New Hope Mission Society. Please mark your gift for “Flood Relief.” If placed in the Sunday morning offering, it will be directed to leaders of NHMS.



Hutchinson

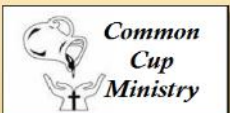
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Glencoe

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Website: www.common-cup.org

Matthew 23:10 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.



Free Community Meal @ FLC
Sun., Sept. 9
from 4-6 p.m.

Fare for All Delivery
Thur., Sept. 27
from 3-5 p.m.

Warm Coat Distribution: will be held over MEA weekend. Donations of coats (especially boys ages 8-10), youth snow pants, waterproof mittens, and children’s boots are needed. Adult coats will NOT be collected this year unless they are 3x or larger. Distribution is for children only. Coats may be dropped off at Faith by Mon., Oct. 15.



HungerFree McLeod’s

Backpack Program provides

weekend food for students on the free and reduced lunch program at school. Currently serving about 250 students in K-4 each week. Items needed from FLC are fruit and applesauce cups.



Diaper Distribution
the last Tues., of each month from 11-12:30 p.m. One bag of diapers per child. Donations always welcome!

Provision of Personal Products or PoPP

A program that provides personal care products to students grades 5-12. Donations accepted at FLC.



**There are so many things going on at Faith Lutheran!
You will want to stay plugged in so that you don't miss
out on anything!**

Ways that you can stay informed:

- ~ Sign-up for the weekly newsletter that comes out on Friday mornings with information for the coming week by sending an e-mail to office@faithlc.com
- ~ *Like* and *Follow* the FLC Facebook Page at FaithLutheranHutchinson
- ~ Check the website (faithlc.com) regularly as it is updated weekly with upcoming events and information
- ~ Make sure you are receiving *Faith Matters* via USPS or e-mail (if you are not receiving this monthly publication please e-mail office@faithlc.com or call Wendy at 587-2093.)

Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church:

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

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School and
Confirmation Class**

**9:10 Multiple Adult Education
Opportunities**

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

10:10 a.m. Foundation Service

For the youngest members of Faith

**Activity Bags: A Biblically themed bag
of activities hanging by the entrances for
children to use.**

**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.**



Simply Giving

Simply Giving is a program that electronically transfers your regular church offerings. You decide the amount, the date of the month for the transfer and you can change either one at anytime.

Some of the benefits of Simply Giving are: it is easier to keep track of your regular giving, it is easier to contribute when you are away, you don't have to worry about forgetting your offering, it helps the church plan based on consistent giving due to a more predictable cash flow, it is secure and easy.

Participants can still receive offering envelopes for special offerings throughout the year. Some people choose to continue placing their envelopes in the offering plate marked SG (Simply Giving).

Forms to set up Simply Giving are available in the church office. Please contact Diane Pedersen with any questions or for help getting set up at 320-587-2093.

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, 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)

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
Janice Rohrbach
Bernice Vorbeck
Lucille Wehking

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick
Pearl Betker
Irene Christensen
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
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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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