



October 2018

Faith Matters



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Pastor's Page

Another campaign cycle is in full swing, with all the familiar elements. Television and internet ads are everywhere. Polls are released every day, with conflicting results. The pundits keep churning out columns and commentaries that claim to know more than can actually be known at this point. And many of us can hardly wait for election day so that another silly season can be put to rest!

It seems to me, however, that something has changed in the political atmosphere. While people have always taken politics and elections seriously, I feel as if more people have come to see them as matters of ultimate significance. That is, people now ascribe to politics the weight that was once attached to religion and today's much-lamented polarization has a religious fervor to it. Elections are described in apocalyptic terms, as if the future of the world or people's eternal fate depends on which party controls Congress or who occupies the White House. Given the constant reports about the decline of Christianity in our country, I have to wonder if this elevation of political issues to a quasi-religious status signals that, for some people, it has become an object of faith and worship taking God's place.

None of this is to say that political questions and decisions are unimportant. Quite the opposite, being able to discuss politics freely and to elect our own leaders are treasured rights that lie at the heart of the whole American experiment. At the same time, though, our Christian faith provides a much-needed reminder that nothing in this world, no matter how important it might be, is *ultimately* important.

One of Martin Luther's great insights was his view of the Two Kingdoms or two ways that God reigns over creation. He labeled the Church as God's Right-hand Kingdom. There, God works directly and openly through Word and the sacraments to deliver people from sin, death and the devil. What Luther called God's Left-hand Kingdom is the world—family, community, work, school and government. Here, God works indirectly through structures, institutions and authorities, but, although God's rule is less obvious here, the key point is that He reigns over *both* kingdoms, that is, over all of creation.

Of these two ways God reigns over creation, only the Church deals with ultimate matters of salvation and eternal life. In the Left-hand Kingdom, God sustains life, provides nurturing relationships and equips us to care for each other and the earth, but those gifts cannot provide the saving gifts that all people need the most—forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God in Christ.

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.

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Pastor's Page *(Continued from page 1)*

Because of that, it is vital not to mix or confuse the kingdoms. If the Church tries to run the world or the world tries to serve as Church, it causes nothing but trouble. Instead, Christians are called to live out their vocations as citizens, spouses, parents, neighbors (and many others) in the Left-hand Kingdom, pursuing God's will for the world as it is revealed to us in the Right-hand Kingdom.

As Christians, we surely should not avoid political matters, but we dare not idolize them, either. So, go at with your neighbor on the other side of the aisle—and then close by praying together for the nation. Vote for the leaders you believe are best, but pray for God to guide whoever is elected. Place your faith and hope in Christ alone, and strive to serve your family and neighbors with the love with which Christ first loved us. Involve yourself in all the matters of the Left-hand Kingdom, but as you do, know that whatever may happen there, it cannot threaten, replace or compete with the reign of the risen Christ Jesus in the eternal, ultimate Kingdom of God.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

The Mission of Money

Years ago, I knew a woman whose marriage, by her own admission, had been loving, but also rather contentious. One issue of disagreement with her husband had been over their offerings to the church. She wanted to give more; he wanted to give much less. He got his way as long as he lived, but after his death, she told me that one blessed consolation in her grief was the tremendous joy she found in giving more generously.



That is one mission that money serves when we practice faithful Biblical stewardship. It gives us joy to use what God first gives us to bless others. It makes us grateful to support the work of God's kingdom. It puts our trust in the God who provides for us, rather than the gifts He provides. Our prayer for all of you is that the money you give to God's mission in the world will bring you that kind of joy, gratitude and consolation.



Have you missed a meeting with your Faith Group? Have you not been able to get plugged into a faith group? You can find the study guide and video links on the website at FaithLC.com.

Topics for the rest of this series:

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Topic/Issue</u>
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 10:23-3	The Narrowest Door!





"Faith Seeks Understanding" **Learning Opportunities for Adults**

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 month?

Digging Deeper begins at 9:10 on Sunday mornings.

B-2-3

B-2-3 will meet on *Sunday, October 7*, at 9:10 in the nursery. This is a time for parents with children from birth to 3 years old to meet with Pastor Dave and other parents to talk about teaching the faith at home.

Thessalonians: The First Books in the New Testament

On *Sunday, October 7, and 21*, seminary student Brian Lauer will lead you through an overview of Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. Meeting in the Faith Center.

Touchstones, Moorings, a Solid Center Too Easy to Lose

On *Sunday, October 7, 21, and 28* Join Pastor Knudson in the Office Conference Room. He will look at author H. Richard Niebuhr's thoughts from years ago, as he describes the loss that fits too well our day in this way: "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through ministrations of a Christ without a cross." In this brief, three-week Digging Deeper session, we will reflect upon our still lively Reformation witness as confessing Christians to ways we may lose our touchstones, moorings, a solid center.

Dr. Christoph W., Our Partner in Outreach to Muslims

On *Sunday, October 14*, we are privileged to have Dr. Christoph share with us his insights into "how we approach Islam in the Western world" during Digging Deeper. He will use his deep understanding of the Koran and witness to Muslims to help us to grasp a problem that he sees as "very easy and complex at the same time." Come and grow with others in how we both receive and bear witness to these children of God. Meeting in the Faith Center.

New Members Class

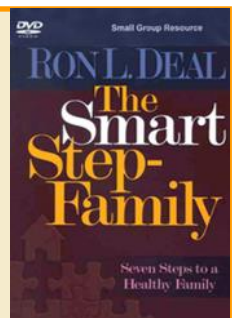
New Member classes meet on *Sunday, October 14, 21 and 28* in the third floor conference room. Contact Marsha Schmit if you, or someone you know, is interested in joining Faith Lutheran Church.

A Look at the Reformation

On *Sunday, Oct. 28* - Pastor Scott will take a look at the historical significance of the Reformation. Meeting in the Faith Center.

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 stepfamilies. Classes will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m., beginning October 4. Pre-registration will be required so that materials can be ordered for each participant. Cost for materials is \$25 per person or \$35 per couple. A need based scholarship is available. Contact the office at 320-587-2093 or office@faithlc.com to register today!



Sponsored in part by Thrivent through a Community Action Grant.



stump the pastor

Q: I don't have to go to church to be a Christian, do I?

A: I have been asked versions of this question several times through the years. A few people have not asked, but simply declared that there is no necessary connection between the two.

The answer, of course, is no—if you are serving in the military or live in a nursing home or have been jailed, or simply cannot attend for some other reason. Our coming to church does not secure our salvation, nor is the Holy Spirit unable to reach people wherever they may be.

If one turns the question around, though, and asks, “What do Christians do?” the main answer has always been that they gather regularly for worship services. It started in Acts 2:41-42, when the first Christians gathered for the first service on the evening of Pentecost Sunday, the first day of the Church’s life. So, to claim to be a Christian, while hoping to avoid the main activity that Christians have done from day one doesn’t quite fit. It suggests something is out of whack.

That something may be a deeper issue here. The question assumes that going to church is a duty, a hoop to jump through in order to get a gold star on that big attendance chart in the sky. If people think worship is religious busywork, it is little wonder that they might avoid it.

The truth is that we do not come to worship to please God. God calls us to worship for our sake, to do his saving work in us, again and again. It is not a matter of duty, but of relationship, spending time with and receiving the benefits of God our Father and Christ our Savior. It is not an obligation to be avoided, but an opportunity not to be missed!

One of my seminary professors used this illustration. Whenever people asked if they had to do something as a Christian, it reminded him of a groom on his wedding night, looking at his beloved waiting in the marriage bed and asking, “Do I have to do something?” And then my professor responded, “What’s the matter? Don’t you *want* to?”

The New Testament uses the image of Christ as the Bridegroom and the Church as his bride. It is a relationship of love and joy, but also one of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is the greatest “love affair” in all of reality. So, no, you don’t *have* to go to church to luxuriate in Christ’s loving presence, but my goodness, why in the world would you not *want* to?!?

Confirmation

Notes for ninth-grade confirmation students and their families!

Confirmation retreat/lock-in will be on Friday, October 5, beginning at 7 p.m.

Please schedule your meeting with Gladys or one of the pastors and fill out the confirmation form on the website before Oct. 22.

Confirmation rehearsal, pictures and reception will be held on Monday, October 22, beginning at 6 p.m.

Confirmation services will be on Sunday, October 28, at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Seniors' Scene



It seems like more and more conversations center around telephone and computer scams. New scams are reported that may not have happened to us, but about which we need to be fully aware and on guard. It is so sad when we hear of a senior citizen, or anyone for that matter, who has been cheated out of his or her savings.

That's why on October 25, our potluck meeting will focus on learning more about scams from a person who is deeply involved with their prevention. Our Hutchinson police chief, Dan Hatten, will address us on the topic: "**Watch Out for Scams.**" He has some other safety issues he wants to share with us as well. Dan is a frequent speaker on these issues at the McLeod County annual Seniors Expo. Just when you think you've heard it all, another scam appears. We can never hear too much or believe we are not vulnerable. So, put **Seniors' Potluck** on your calendar for **October 25, 12:00 noon**, beginning with potluck dinner and good Christian fellowship. Bring a friend or two who would appreciate the fellowship and helpful information.

You can pick up this year's complete potluck schedule at the meeting or on the table in the gathering space near the main office. Picking up a few extras is a good way to share the topics and to interest others in coming. Just place a schedule in their hands.

NOW HEAR THIS!!!! On Thursday, November 8, Seniors' Potluck group will be packing **Operation Christmas Child boxes**. We have seen increasing support for this worthy mission, and would like to keep the momentum going. You can begin buying items to pack this month. The lists of needed items are available at church. Then we'll bring the supplies to the meeting and have fun packing together.

HEAR THIS TOO!! If you have a Thrivent policy you may be able to apply for a \$250 Thrivent Grant to be used specifically for OCC items. You can apply online, by talking to your Thrivent agent, or talk to those who have already gotten grants in the past. The process is simple. Check it out. In advance... THANKS for your efforts.



Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) News

- ⇒ We would like to thank everyone who donated treats for the Extravaganza cakewalk. Once again, children of all ages enjoyed the game and picking out their own prizes. It did not take long to run out of those delicious sweet treats!
- ⇒ The Augustana District Women of the Word (WOW) gathering was a very inspirational event attended by five women from Faith. Consider joining us for it next year on September 21, in Nevis, MN.
- ⇒ Looking ahead, plan to attend the annual FLCW Christmas meeting on Sunday, November 18, at 11:30 a.m. There will be hot cider, coffee, appetizers, a devotional time, a Christmas craft project, and a time to discuss the disbursement of our 2018 funds.
- ⇒ Planning is also underway for the second annual Advent Luncheon on Saturday, December 8. This year we will feature a perfect celebration for treating your guests to a culinary treat and international fashion show without the need of your passport. A true sugar-and-spice-and-everything-nice Christmas celebration. If you are interested in hosting/decorating a table or modeling for the fashion show, please contact the church office by November 1 at 320-587-2093. Tickets will be on sale in the office as the event gets closer.



Rummage Sale Donations

Are you ready to clean out or divide the flower garden? Do you have extra plants that you would like to get rid of? Are you cleaning out the closet as you switch from your summer wardrobe to your winter one? Don't forget that the FLC annual rummage and plant sale is in the spring and would love your donations!



Getting to know the Staff

By Marsha Schmit

Our new Music and Worship Director, Will Holt, spent his first twelve years in Dallas, TX, before he and his family moved to Tyler, TX, where he lived for six years. The family was filled with boys (Will has three younger brothers) and one golden retriever. His father, an advertiser, also dabbles in blues singing on the side. His mother is a professional bookkeeper. He says, “I have been very blessed with a supportive family aside from the shenanigans in which my siblings seem to excel.” 😊

Upon graduating from high school, Will decided to attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN “because of its rich choral tradition and diverse musical training.” He also liked the small-town feel. While at St. Olaf, he majored in General Music with a focus in Church Music. Will was a featured soloist at two Christmas festivals at St. Olaf and three St. Olaf Choir tours, both nationally and internationally. Besides singing, Will also plays the piano and has been taking organ lessons.

When I asked him how he feels about his new position at Faith, he said, “It looks as though Faith has a surplus of talent and leadership that I can’t wait to tap into. Being able to collaborate is something I have always loved about attending St. Olaf, and Faith seems to operate in the same way. However, with access to a such a large pool of gifts, it is a big responsibility—which is a tad daunting! Regardless, I am excited to get things rolling and look forward to meeting as many members from Faith as I can.”

Although Will has only been here a week (at the time of writing this article), he is enjoying his time here and says, “If Hutch is anything like Faith, then I think I am going to have a great time living here.” Good to hear!

Want to get to know Will better? In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf and will play if you ask! And if you don’t play golf? Get plugged in at Faith musically or set up a time to visit. He says he wants to “work in Church music for the rest of (his) days” and although only God knows the future, he’s excited for his time here at Faith Lutheran!

Will’s favorite Bible verse is: Psalm 150:1-5 “Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.” “It says it all,” Will commented.

We welcome you, Will, and look forward to being in ministry together!



MUSIC NOTES:

- ◆ *Faith Singers rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*
- ◆ *Ringers of Faith - Watch for announcements as to how Will is going to mix this program up a bit!*
- ◆ *12th Annual Coming Together in Song Concert Fundraiser for Common Cup will be Sunday, November 18, at 4 p.m.*

Ongoing Local Missions Invite Faithful Generosity



Wings: This program, led by members of FLC, seeks to help children from McLeod County who must temporarily be removed from their homes and placed in foster care. They can be contacted via their Facebook page: Wings-McLeod County, e-mail them at mcleod.wings@gmail.com or call 320-583-7755. Current needs are new shoes in any kids' sizes (suitable for gym/outdoor), socks, underwear, pajamas. Also, with winter coming, they could use new outdoor gear (hats, gloves) or used outdoor gear (boots, snow pants). Faith Lutheran Church is a drop off location for this program.

Common Cup: School is back in session and Faith Lutheran Church is again helping with the CCM weekly "back pack" ministry. Students in need are given food each week to help feed them through the weekend. **FLC members are invited to donate applesauce and fruit cups to help fill those weekend back packs. Donations can be placed in a CCM container next to the main church entrances.**



**Common
Cup
Ministry**

**Free Community
Meal @ FLC**
Sun., Oct. 7
from 4-6 p.m.



**Twelfth Annual
Coming Together
in Song concert** to
be held at Christ
the King Church

on Sunday, November 18,
at 4:00 p.m. Come enjoy a
great concert and help sup-
port CCM's largest fundrais-
er with a free will offering.

Hutchinson

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

Glencoe

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

Website: www.common-cup.org

Fare for All Delivery
Thur., Oct. 25
from 3-5 p.m.

THANK YOU

to everyone who
donated school
supplies. We served
517 youth this year.

Diaper Distribution:

On the last Tuesday
of each month from
11:00 a.m. to 12:30
p.m., parents can
receive one bag of
diapers per child.

***Faith Lutheran will
be collecting diapers
in November!***

WARM COAT COLLECTION

Common Cup Ministry will be collecting coats through Wed., Oct. 10. Distribution will take place at New Century Academy (950 School Road SW) on Wed., Oct. 17, from 3-7 p.m. and Thur., Oct. 18, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. CCM is asking for donations of children's coats and larger men's and women's (sizes 2X and up). CCM is only collecting coats that are appropriate for youth. In addition to coats, we are in need of warm outerwear for children and young adults (snowpants/boots/waterproof mittens/hats/etc.). Cash donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please contact CCM with questions or for more information.

Faith Lutheran Church is a member of Common Cup Ministry, a non-profit organization whose mission 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. Form more information go to www.commn-cup.org.



**Global
Health
Ministries**
*Helping the hands
that heal*

Another mission that Faith Lutheran supports is Global Health Ministries. Members of Faith sew blankets and quilts, and assemble newborn and hospice kits that are delivered to the GHM warehouse in Minneapolis. The following information was compiled by GHM in their annual report: **Shipped this year:** 11 sea containers, 145 suitcases (filled with supplies) went to 31 countries, a value of \$3,175,201. **Education:** 611 student nurses and doctors health workers were supplied \$131,314 for training in seven countries. **Community-based Health Care:** bases in seven countries were given \$838,539 towards maternal/infant health, malaria prevention, clean water and sanitation.



Men of Faith

Wednesday, October 10 at 6 p.m. Come and join your brothers in faith for food, fellowship and a word from our speaker, Dan Moe, as he talks about “making lemonade from the lemons life puts in your path” and why Isaiah 43:2, “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you,” is important to him. Men of all ages are welcome, and YES, you CAN bring a friend!



We are in need of Sprouts Leaders

Volunteers lead a short Bible lesson and a game or craft. All activities are prepared and ready, so you just have to lead the children in the activities. This is a short (20-minute or so), commitment. The more volunteers we have, the longer the rotation cycle. You can even pick and choose the Sundays that work best for you by using the QR code above or contacting Laura Weikle at lauraw@faithlc.com or 320-587-2093. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity.

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
(Contemporary service in Foundation)



For the Youngest Members of Faith

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

Children's Bulletins and Young Children's
Sermon Note Forms: These can also be found at the entrances.

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.

As you can see, there are so many opportunities here at Faith! There are also a number of ways to stay plugged in so that you don't miss out on any of them!

- ~ 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.)



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 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)

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

Birchwood House

Ardell Novotny

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert

Janice Rohrbach

Bernice Vorbeck

Lucille Wehking

Dassel Lakeside

Doris Berker

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Pearl Betker

Irene Christensen

Betty Jensen

Ruth Moen

Karol Nolte

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

Prince of Peace

Carol Otto

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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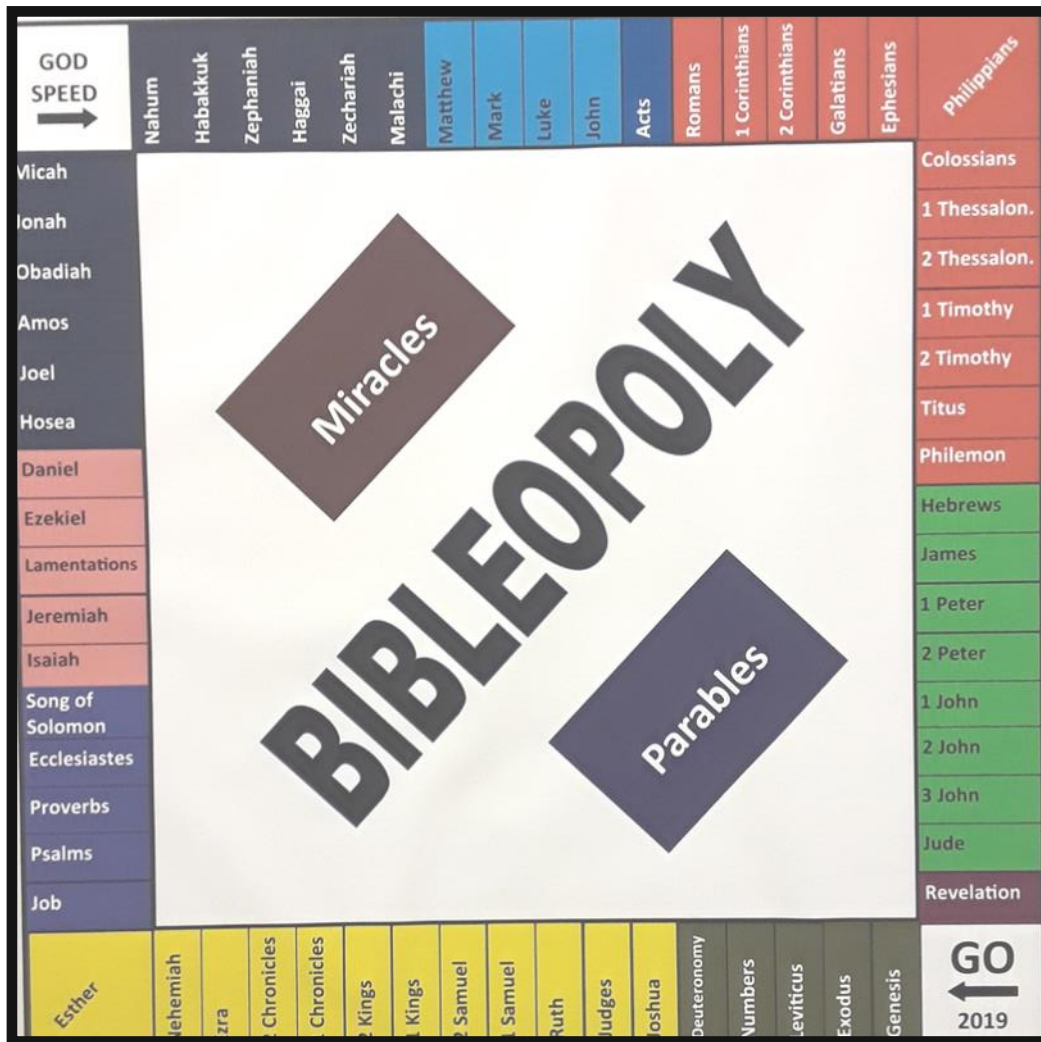
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Church-wide Bible Reading Plan - Coming January 1, 2019

Do you have a Bible? Do you need one?

Did you know reading the Bible is for ALL ages?

Three-year old children recently received Bibles, second grade students will receive Bibles in October. If you don't have one, you could put it on your Christmas list or buy one here at the church.

If you find reading the Bible intimidating or feel like you just don't have the time, we have a plan that will work for you!

So start making plans now to join the Bibleopoly Challenge as your 2019 New Year's Resolution!

Watch for details on how to get a Bible and how individuals of all ages, families, small groups, everyone, can plug into BIBLEOPOLY coming in next month's edition of *Faith Matters*!

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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