

THANKS
GIVING

November 2018

Faith Matters

Pastor's Page



335 Main St. S
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093

Email:
office@faithlc.com

We are on the
Web:
Faithlc.com



RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
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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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I remember preaching a sermon a few years ago in which I declared, "I hate giving!" First of all, many of us live pretty tight. We're paycheck to paycheck. In fact, many financial advisors say that most Americans are just a few paychecks away from bankruptcy! So we need money! Mortgage payments are relentless and burdensome. We have to own a couple of vehicles, which inevitably break down. Cell phone bills are ridiculous—and, of course, our third grader needs a smart phone, too! Who has time to cook these days!? So fast food and restaurant costs add up. Throw in braces for the kids, a medical emergency, and at least a little entertainment and who has extra money to give!? I hate giving.

But, I need to give. I have a deep need in me to give. Oh sure, I resist this need all the time, but it's there. I need to give precisely because I don't want to give. I need to give because I hold onto my money too tightly. I need to give because I too often put myself and my needs before others. I need to give because I love money too much. I'm like the rich young ruler we talked about in worship a few weeks ago. Like him, I idolize my wealth and possessions. I don't want to be parted from them. They come between me and Jesus. So I need to give.

And so, thankfully, I've come to the point where I love to give. Don't get me wrong, I'm not Mother Theresa. I still often get a little tight-fisted and selfish. But Andrea and I practice tithing. We give the first 10% of our income to the church. And then we support other causes or charities on top of that. Could that money be helpful in other areas of my life? Maybe. But can that money be better spent? Nope. It's going right where it needs to go.

I don't share this to toot my own horn, but to express the freedom that comes with giving. A great truth that I've experienced is that you can't out-give God! God loves giving! He gives us this day our daily bread. He gives us the very breath we breathe. He gave his only Son to die for us.

Finally, Faith needs your giving. As the end of the year approaches, we have a steeper hill to climb than in years past. Once again, we are counting on the family of Faith to come through, to give generously, to finish strong.

So give! Give generously! Give cheerfully! For "God loves a cheerful giver!" (II Cor. 9:7)

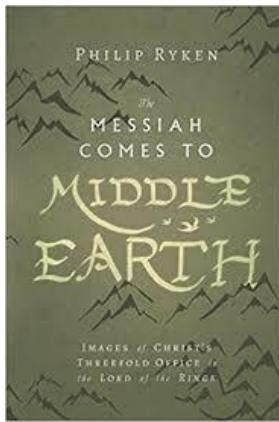
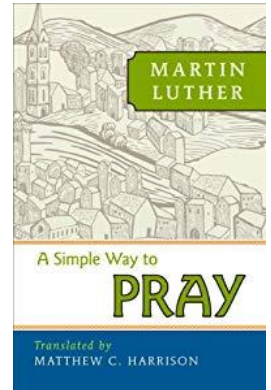
See you in church,
Pastor Dave



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

A Simple Way to Pray

Do you find it hard to pray? Do you feel you should pray more, but struggle to know how? Martin Luther’s barber, Peter Beskendorf, felt that way. So, in 1535, he asked Luther to teach him and Luther responded with a little book called *A Simple Way to Pray*. Using the catechism, he laid out a four-step method to pray through each part. In this class, we will look at Luther’s book and method as a way to enrich our own experience of prayer. Meeting in the Faith Center November 4 - November 25.



The **MESSIAH** **COMES TO** **Middle Earth**

Images of Christ in the Lord of the Rings

Okay, all you Ring-Heads out there, this is the Digging Deeper class for you! Come and nerd-out with Pastor Dave as we explore the rich Christian symbolism and themes in J.R.R. Tolkien’s classic work. Bring your LOTR books as we explore both the novels and the movies and how they point to Christ. Meeting in the office conference room November 4 - November 25.

What’s Coming Up?

Sunday, November 4 - All Saints’ Sunday with recognition of saints from Faith at all three services.

Wednesday, November 21 - 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service with Holy Communion followed by a pie social in the Faith Center. If you like to bake, bring your favorite pie to share.

Thursday, November 22 - 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Service with Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 28 - Chili/Soup Cook Off from 4:30 - 6 p.m.
(plan to bring your favorite soup or chili to share. If you prefer to bake, you can bring a dessert.
The first Advent Service follows at 6:30 p.m.

Advent services will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 through December 19.



Daylight Savings Time Ends:
Saturday, November 3, don’t forget to change your clocks and “Fall Back” or you will be really early for church on Sunday.

stump the pastor

Q: Lutherans don't recognize sainthood, so why do we celebrate All Saints' Day?

A: Martin Luther's rediscovery of the Gospel ruled out the whole idea that some Christians do so much good that they earn the special status of sainthood. The Bible proclaims that in Holy Baptism we die with Christ and are raised to new life in him. (Romans 6:1-11) The Christian life does not consist of earning credit with God. Sinners could never do that and Christians no longer need it. Instead, it is the living out of our new identity in Christ for the sake of our neighbors. As Luther once wrote, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

In his letters, however, Paul used "saints" in a different sense. For example, his address to the Corinthian church reads, "To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints..." We know from the letter that follows that the Corinthian church was riddled with conflict, cliques and false teaching. The members of it fell far short of what is normally considered saintly behavior.

So why did Paul refer to them as saints? It was not because of their conduct, but because they had been claimed by Christ. They were *sanctified*, that is, *made* holy by God's grace in Jesus Christ. Their sainthood was not an achievement, but a gift. It was based not on their actions, but their identity in Christ. It did not reflect their own nature, but Christ's saving work within them.

That is what we celebrate on All Saints' Day. We are not singling out Christians of exceptional merit, but we thank God for all those who have gone before us, passed on the faith to us and provided us a model of what it means to live by faith in Christ alone. We also acknowledge those in our family of Faith who died in the past year, as well as those who were baptized into Christ. They, with us, are all the members of Christ's family who have been "sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints."



Snow Birds

Are you a snow bird getting ready to head south to a warmer climate for the winter? If so we want to keep you plugged in to all of the exciting things happening at Faith. How can you do that from your winter home?

- 1) Make sure to call the church and update your winter address with start and end dates, so we can make sure you keep getting your mail.
- 2) Sign up for the weekly E-newsletter which will be sent to your e-mail box on Friday mornings.
- 3) Listen to the 8 a.m. services by logging into your computer, listening live on KDUZ/KARP's website.
- 4) Follow the FLC website and Facebook page to hear the weekly sermons and to see all that is happening

If you have questions about any of these options to stay connected, contact the office at 320-587-2093 or office@faithlc.com.

See you in the spring!

The Mission of Money

The New Testament makes it clear that Christian ministry belongs to all Christians. Romans 12:3-8 is just one example. Congregations, however, have long employed people so that they can minister full-time and in more intentional ways. Faith Lutheran has called staff members so they can be available to do ministry on your behalf, in times and ways that other members of the church are not available to do. What makes that possible, of course, is generous offerings given by the congregation so the church staff are able to devote ourselves full-time to ministry. As the end of 2018 approaches, Faith once again needs a major outpouring of gifts in order for offerings to match expenses. Please pray for God to guide your stewardship and give generously according to how God has first blessed you.



Upon This Rock

Last year, Faith Lutheran was blessed to receive a large bequest from the estate of Delores Saar. At a special meeting in June, the congregation voted to apply most of that gift to the principal balance on the mortgage. That extra payment dropped the remaining debt below \$1 million dollars and the payoff date is now 13 years earlier than the original loan!

All of that extra payment, however, came off the *back end* of the loan. The church still has a required payment every month and we depend on continuing gifts to *Upon This Rock* to make each one.

Unfortunately, gifts to UTR have dropped sharply in the last few months. That has made a worrisome dent in the reserve funds we hold to make sure the church is able to make each month's payment.

Please give regularly to *Upon This Rock* in light of how God has first blessed you, so that the church can avoid any kind of debt crisis, and instead keep making amazing progress on retiring the mortgage, perhaps even by the 150th anniversary of the church in 2020!

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.'



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 support CCM's largest fundraiser with a free will offering. *(Singers welcome to join! See Will Holt for more information!)*



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

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

Time to start planning your **Thanksgiving meal** so why not get it through **Fare for All**. For **\$30** you will get your turkey and most of the fixings for a full meal, including a pie. November distribution takes place on **Thursday, November 15**, at the CCM Office between **3:00 and 5:00 p.m.** Place your order by **Friday, November 9** at the CCM office. Happy Thanksgiving!

Laundry Love Ministry takes place the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Maytag Laundromat located at 1025 Hwy 7. It serves over 40 families at a cost of over \$700 each month. Donations of laundry soap, dryer sheets, and quarters are always greatly appreciated.

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. For more information go to www.common-cup.org.

Seniors' Scene

It seems like we just packed Christmas Child boxes for Samaritan's Purse ministries, but it is actually a full year ago. SO...at our regular Seniors' Potluck meeting, on **November 8, 2018**, we will pack as many boxes as we can fill. We'll begin, of course, with our regular potluck dinner, at 12:00 noon. Following a brief devotion we'll proceed with our mission work of packing boxes.



Please notice two things:

(1) This meeting is earlier in the month than usual. That's because we always try to avoid family events and traditions around Thanksgiving. SO, be sure to mark your calendars, and watch the bulletin announcements---**November 8, 12:00 noon**.

(2) Please buy and bring as many Christmas box items as you possibly can. We'd like to top the 75 boxes we did last year. Growing in our ministries is always a goal. Bring them to the church office area, and we'll take care of them; or, bring them the day of packing. You can pick up a full list of items to buy at either entrance to the church building (PLEASE NOTE: NO TOOTHPASTE). Then look forward to the fun we always have putting the boxes together.

AND, for those who wish, we'll also roll some bandages. The Desens will have the sheet strips and rollers ready to go. Our thanks to them.

See you at SENIORS' POTLUCK, on November 8. Bring a friend or two.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PIE SOCIAL
FOLLOWING THE THANKSGIVING EVE
SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
IN THE FAITH CENTER.



Mugs and Muffins

Saturday, November 17, 2018, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. Come hear a former member of Faith, Brooke Thrall, share her faith journey with you.

MISSIONS

Our Lord's Call to Feed the Hungry

Our Lord Declares: "...As you did it unto one of the least of these, who are members of My family, you did it unto me." Matthew 25: 40

November is Faith Lutheran Church's annual hunger appeal. Out of our abundance we are called to give generously that others may not go to bed hungry. This year, as in past years, we invite one another not only to reach our minimum goal of \$5,000 in this appeal, but to give freely to go well beyond this goal.

We once again will work with trusted partners locally, nationally, and internationally to see that people who face the need for food will be fed. It is important that the funds we give go not to administration but to meet the actual needs of hungry children of God.

In 2018, the Church in the World Team proposes the following disbursement of funds given:

- 40% to Common Cup Ministries in Hutchinson and McLeod County
- 40% through NHMS to help our Southern India partners feed desperately poor community members devastated by the recent flood and extreme poverty. *(See picture to right)*
- 20% to assist trusted partners in addressing the hunger needs related to recent devastating hurricanes in this country.

Mark your gift for the FLC November Hunger Appeal



Prayers are Invited



Dr. Abdul Messiah is seeking further training for leadership of Christian witness to Muslims through the Bishara Center and the Shaliach Bible College founded by his father, Pastor K.K. Alavi. This mission is funded through the New Hope Mission Society with FLC a major partner in that endeavor.

Pray that the best God-pleasing decisions will be made, with funding provided to bring this training to its fruition.

Let's Fill the Boat! Thanksgiving Food Drive

During the month of November, the Congregational Life Ministry Team is asking everyone to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Look for the boat located in the southeast entrance (Door 2), and bring your items to share with others in our community. The Sunday School children will be invited to participate in a challenge to see which class can bring in the most food! All food collected will be brought to the Food Shelf in time for Thanksgiving. Thank you for helping to provide food for those in need in Hutchinson and the area.

Some items the food shelf is currently running short on are laundry soap, toilet paper, baby food, cake mixes and crackers.





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 Betker

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Myrt Bauer

Pearl Betker

Irene Christensen

Helen Hansen

Betty Jensen

Ruth Moen

Karol Nolte

Joanne Olesen

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Meeker Manor

Lois Hoefs

Oaks

Arlyce Drahos

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

Pines

Margaret Grorud

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

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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Staff

Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com
---	---------------------

Will Holt, Director of Music and Worship	willh@faithlc.com
--	-------------------

Gladys Nissen, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	gladysn@faithlc.com
--	---------------------

Laura Weikle, Director of Children & Family Ministry	lauraw@faithlc.com
--	--------------------

Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com
--	--------------------

Keith Lange, Maintenance	office@faithlc.com
--------------------------	--------------------

Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net
---	--------------------

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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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