

Faith Matters



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Pastor's Page

Happy New Year!
January 2019

I've always struggled with the board game "Monopoly." First of all, it's a long game, and I can be impatient. Then there are times when it is really discouraging, like when you see your opponent building hotels on Boardwalk. Then there are those times when I just get bored with it.

Sometimes it can be the same experience reading the Bible. We can sometimes open up God's Word and wonder what in the world we are reading! We can struggle to understand what it's saying or what it has to do with us. We can get discouraged. We can get bored. We give up.

As I hope you have heard, the Discipleship Team is challenging the congregation to play "Bibleopoly" in 2019. Basically, it's a challenge to get into and read God's Word, regularly and deliberately. They have provided a number of reading plans for all ages, some that focus on parts of the Bible, and others that will take you through the entire Bible.

Now, with the New Year comes all kinds of goals and resolutions with the idea of improving yourself. I challenge you, what could be better for you than spending each day in God's Word, taking in the scope of God's story in the Bible, and filling your head with God's promises to you? Sure, it's quite a commitment! Sure, you'll probably run into times where you'll become impatient, discouraged, bored, and just want to give up! But also, I assure you, if you stick with it, you'll also run into times when God's Word will come alive for you! You will be struck by God's wisdom and love, as the story unfolds. And you will deepen in your understanding of the Bible.

Of course, unlike Monopoly, there's not just one winner. Anyone who dives into the Bible wins! In fact, the more people "playing" the more our community of Faith wins, the more your neighbor wins, the more the kingdom of God wins! The Word will be at work!

So play Bibleopoly!
Read the Word in
2019! Play as a
family. Play with
friends. Pass go (and
Genesis)! Collect
God's promises!

See you in church,
Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave slam dunks!

"Open your Bible...

Open your hearts...

Open your minds...

START NOW!"



We are on the
Web:
Faithlc.com

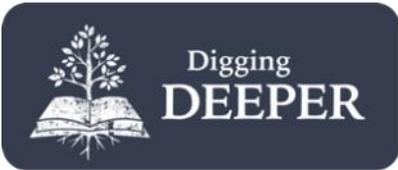


RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
KDUZ 1260 AM

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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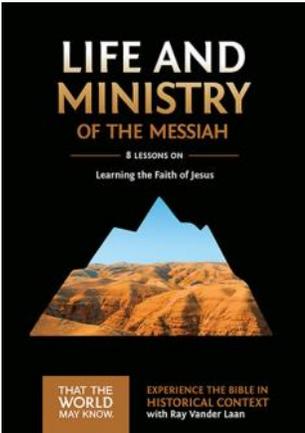
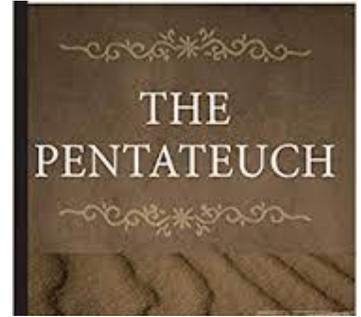
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“Faith Seeks Understanding” Learning Opportunities for Adults

Beginning “in the Beginning”

As Faith Lutheran begins the Bibleopoly challenge to read through the Bible in 2019, this Digging Deeper class will give an overview of the first five books of the Bible, often called the Pentateuch. Come to learn some background information to deepen your understanding of what you are reading.



The Life and Ministry of the Messiah

This class will examine some of the key teachings and events of Jesus’ life using Ray Vander Laan’s series filmed on location in the Holy Land. See where Jesus walked and taught, and how that influenced his hearers.



stump the pastor

Q: Why are we celebrating Epiphany Day in church this year? Why don't we do so every year?

A: This question actually came up last year, when the situation was reversed, and Epiphany Day was not noted during Sunday worship. As with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, Epiphany is both a day and a season. We note

the season of Epiphany every year between Christmas and Lent, but the Day of Epiphany, which is devoted to the visit of the Wise Men to the child Jesus, only shows up in Sunday worship every six to seven years.

Why? It is due to one of the many quirks in the Christian calendar. All Christian festivals are set on a particular day each year, which means that they most often fall on a weekday, not a Sunday. Because of that, some festivals “move” to the nearest Sunday. For example, Reformation Day is October 31, but is celebrated on the nearest Sunday before that. All Saints’ Day is November 1, but it is celebrated on the nearest Sunday afterward.

Other festivals, however, do not move, and Epiphany Day is one of them. Christmas lasts for twelve days, so Epiphany Day is always on the thirteenth day after Christmas. Since Epiphany Day depends on the date of Christmas, it always remains on January 6 and is celebrated in worship only when, as in 2019, that date is a Sunday. (Ascension Day is a similar example, but since it comes 40 days after Easter Sunday, it invariably falls on a Thursday.)

In earlier times, when Epiphany Day and other festivals that do not move fell on a weekday, special services were often held, but those have largely disappeared. It is unfortunate that, as a result, an important festival like the Day of Epiphany passes by with little attention most years.

Stewardship Snapshot

Watching the number and variety of ministries that occur at Faith Lutheran each week is always an amazing experience. God provides us so many opportunities to fulfill our mission statement: *Building FAITH: Follow, Announce, Invite, Teach and Help*. Your generous offerings, made possible by God's generous blessing, provide the leaders, materials and other resources to meet those many opportunities. As we begin a new year of serving Christ and His kingdom, please continue to give of yourself, your time and your possessions in service to the ministry God has entrusted to us here at Faith Lutheran.



It is hard to believe that the first year of the *Upon This Rock* capital campaign is already complete. As of this writing, the total amount given in the first year is not yet known, but it is clear that the church continues to make astounding progress on retiring the mortgage. Our monthly payment is \$19,413 and just over \$17,000 of that is principal! The mortgage balance is now under \$830,000. Thank you for giving faithfully and generously to provide the space Faith Lutheran needs to do the ministry God calls us to do.



From the Director of Music and Worship

Calling all members of Faith Lutheran! After the Christmas Season, we will begin something I have been working on since I started working here at Faith. "Bells for

Beginners" will be a class-styled rehearsal beginning mid-January, meeting every Thursday at 7:30 pm. For all of those who are interested in bells, I encourage you to learn how approachable and fun bells can be! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED. We will be covering everything from how to keep rhythm and read music, to gaining some background knowledge on bells and how vital they are in Church music. We can't do this without you, so please approach me on Sundays, come by Faith any day of the week to chat, or email me at willh@faithlc.com. I hope to see at least 20 people in the music room on January 10! The more people we have, the easier it

will be in the long run. So plan to attend and invite your friends to an evening of well-paced fun.

I look forward to hearing from you all as we approach our first day of class.

Blessings,
Will



Bells
101

Seniors' Scene

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

To us, who mostly count by days, believing every new day is a gift, and sometimes wonder if we'll get through it, recognizing we're on the threshold of 2019 is something else. But here we are. God has brought us to this new year out of His goodness and grace. We thank you, Lord; and we pray that this year will be a time to use our lives to worship You, love You, and serve You as we are able.

God is a God of "newness." He gave Jesus to rid us of our sin and condemnation, and create in us a new life. Knowing that this newness exists today in a sinful world in which we struggle, suffer and bemoan the world's course, we also look forward to the newness of God's glory in heaven. God always holds this hope before us. It makes life today a thing of hope and peace. In that spirit, **Happy New Year!** God is with you in 2019, and will be with you through all eternity.

The new year brings a full package of new programs for **Seniors' Potluck** as well. It all begins with Brian Mohr, Director of Buildings, Grounds and Student Transportation. He will literally bring the high school into the Faith Center, via power point projector. He'll

show us the construction and the final product. It will be a great way to take a tour, without having to go to the building itself. Perhaps some day you can tour that, too.

The high school is a stately building. One of our FLC residents of Harmony River had her family drive past the new high school recently. She was astounded, and proud (some of her tax money helped build it), and grateful for teachers and pupils.



Again, Happy New Year; and don't miss **Seniors' Potluck Thursday, January 31, potluck dinner begins at 12:00 noon.**

SEE YOU THERE.
Bring a friend or two.



Men of Faith

The first Men of Faith event of 2019 will be held on Wednesday, January 30, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Faith Center.

Our special guest speaker will be Jon Gelschus sharing his thoughts on "God's Timing is Everything".



Save
the
Date

ANNUAL MEETING

The Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting is open to all confirmed members of Faith. This meeting is an important event in the life of the church and each of you is a key part of what happens. Please plan to attend this meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019, beginning at 12 noon. A light lunch will be served by the youth from 11:15-11:45 and the meeting usually lasts about an hour.



November Hunger Appeal Surpassed Our Goal

Thank you FLC members for your generous response to our November Hunger Appeal! We received \$5,612. Of that, 40% went to Common Cup Ministries, 40% to New Hope Mission Societies partners in southern India at the Bishara Center led by Pastor K.K. Alavi and his son, Dr. Abdul Messiah, and the remaining funds will be disbursed to bring relief to those in this country facing devastating destruction through hurricanes etc. Careful attention will be given in determining where these funds will alleviate suffering.

Strong December Offerings Vital to Fulfill Mission Commitments

Both global mission partners and regional/local partners depend on our faithfulness. As 25% of the mission budget outlays are disbursed at year's end, the Church in the World Ministry Team covets your strong support in these last days of 2018 for these missions. Thank you for what you will do.

Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will kick off 2019 on Saturday, January 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. Penny Stuber will start off the new year by sharing her journey of faith and its ups and downs with you.



The Faith Lutheran Women Thank You!

Thank You

The FLCW would like to extend thanks to everyone who decorated tables for the Advent Luncheon, worked, attended and modeled for the event. It was a wonderful celebration.

Thank you also to those who attended the annual meeting in November, the board members who brought delicious appetizers and Carreen Pierson for providing the craft project.



2019 Spring Rummage Sale

Now that the gift giving has come and gone, do you have old gadgets and gizmos? Whozits and whatzits galore? Got thingamabobs to get rid of? Set them aside to donate to the annual rummage sale in April.



Thoughts and Prayers



Please remember all those who are serving our country through active duty:

- Braiden Bjorge (Marines - grandson of Sandy Curtiss)
- 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

Betty Jensen

Ruth Moen

Karol Nolte

Joanne Olesen

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Dick White

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

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