

Faith Matters

Pastor's Page

February 2019



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.
KDUZ 1260 AM

TV BROADCAST
CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

I was recently encouraged to read an article that, to be honest, sounded only mildly interesting to me. The title suggested it was an analysis of voting patterns among Christians in the 2016 presidential primaries—and that is where it began. The article ended up, however, in a place I did not at all expect, and which I found intensely interesting.

It turned out that the author's close analysis of those voting patterns revealed significant differences between Christian voters who *attended* church regularly and those who did not, either by choice or because churches in their area had closed. What mattered most among these Christians was not their common *convictions*, but their varied *participation* in the life and ministry of the church.

That finding jumped out at me, because it reflects a troubling trend at Faith Lutheran and among Christian churches generally. Although Faith Lutheran's membership remains steady, we have seen worship *attendance* slowly, but surely decline over recent years. Not long ago, a strong Sunday saw around 500 people in church—still a meager 25% of our membership! Now, it hovers closer to 400. Yet, it seems clear to us that the percentage of Faith's members who are in worship *on occasion* has not declined; it's just that fewer and fewer seem to be here *regularly*. In other words, it appears that their Christian *convictions* have not changed, but their Christian *participation* has.

At the same time, we often hear some version of the claim that "I don't need to come to church to be a Christian." But in light of the article cited above—not to mention two millennia of Christian teaching and experience—that claim doesn't hold up. *Participation* in worship services and other church ministries makes a significant difference.

We know, of course, a long list of reasons why weekly worship attendance has declined. We are fully aware of how much people travel, how crowded week-ends have become, those who have to work on weekends, how many demands compete for people's time, how today's culture increasingly dismisses the value not just of church life, but the Christian faith itself, and more.

None of that, though, changes the reality that regular *participation* in the life of the church, especially hearing God's Word and receiving the Lord's Supper, is essential to sustaining our Christian faith. It is not just an added-value option if we are interested and can squeeze it in. In fact, one could argue that, just because of all those competing demands for our time and attention, it must be *more* of a priority, not less, to receive the divine gifts that Christ pours out through the Church.

In the third commandment, God calls us to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." In the *Large Catechism*, Martin Luther points out that Christians do not

Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

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

Pastors Page (continued from page 1)

remember the Sabbath day *because* it is holy, but that we *keep* the Sabbath holy by how we remember it. “What is meant by ‘keeping it holy’? Nothing else than devoting it to holy words, holy works, and holy living. So it becomes holy...when we make use of God’s Word and *exercise ourselves in it.*” (Emphasis added.)

As Christians, we can do no better than to commit ourselves to *participate* in the church as regularly as we possibly can, in order to receive God’s gifts of grace that nurture and sustain our Christian faith. For all the evidence—even that from a secular political analyst—makes it clear that we really do “have to come to church to be a Christian.” See you in church!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott

Stewardship Snapshot



The *Martin Luther’s Two Catechisms* class that meets on Monday mornings recently studied the first article of the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.” In his explanation of that article, Luther emphasizes that it confesses not only that God originally created the universe long ago, but that He continues to sustain it, moment by moment, until the Last Day.

Because all we have and are depend on God, Luther writes, “We learn from this article that none of us owns anything for himself, nor can preserve, his life nor anything that is here listed or can be listed.” This

is the core conviction of Biblical teaching about stewardship. Everything we have and are is given to us by God. We do not own it, but it is entrusted to us to manage during our lives. To give back regularly a portion of what God first gives us reflects God’s boundless generosity to us, and reminds us that our trust should always be in God and not in the possessions God gives us. This makes Biblical stewardship much more than simply supporting the church. It is the fruit of the faith-filled life.



Annual Valentines’ Dinner

Sunday, February 10

Tickets \$15 each

This event is a fundraiser for students going on the mission trip to Montana this summer. It is also a great opportunity to treat your sweetheart, son/daughter, friend or yourself to a night out to enjoy good food and a great time.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to support the youth through this event, you may want to consider purchasing a ticket or two for someone who can’t afford it or would really appreciate a surprise night out.

Hope to see you there!

Stump the pastor

Q: I have been asked several times recently why a dove hangs in chancel of the sanctuary.

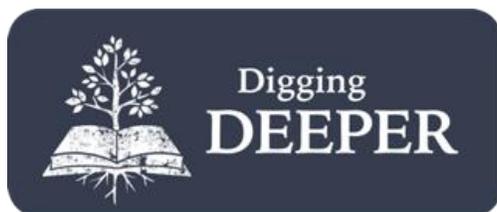


A: There are two points in the Bible where a dove plays a key role. The first is in Genesis 8, where Noah sent

a dove out from the ark to see if the waters of the flood had receded. The dove came back with a fresh olive leaf in its beak, which told Noah that the trees were above the water line and it would soon be possible to leave the ark. The dove in our sanctuary has an olive sprig in its mouth, which suggests the connection to Noah.

The other role played by a dove, however, is much more central to our faith. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended on him from heaven in the form of a dove, so the dove in the sanctuary represents the Holy Spirit's presence among us. This is also why it is suspended above the baptismal font, because we also receive(d) the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Baptism.

Since the promises of Holy Baptism are so central to our faith, it might be preferable if the dove in the sanctuary did not have the olive branch in its mouth. It might connect more directly to Jesus' baptism and ours. As it is, though, the dove recalls both of these Biblical events and reminds us that the Holy Spirit's power and presence surround us still today.



“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Learning Opportunities for Adults
Sundays, February 10-March 3 @ 9:30 a.m.

Love: Misunderstood, poorly applied, and the greatest of these

Many famous song writers have asked “What is love?” “What’s love got to do with it?” or declared, “All you need is love.” The Bible also says a lot about love—God’s love, our love, and love in general. This class will explore love throughout Scripture, and dig into what that means for us and for our witness and interactions with others. You’ll love* it! Meeting in the Faith Center.

*depending on definition and application of love.

Attend class for more details. ☺



“Christian Essentials”

We all know about other Christian denominations and often find it hard to tell the differences between them. We also know about religious sects that have strayed so far from the Christian faith that they actually teach a different religion. What doctrines can Christians safely dispute and what beliefs are essential for a faithful Christian church to hold? Come to explore some of the foundational beliefs that are essential to genuinely Christian faith. Meeting in the office conference room.



Church in the World



Wings, partnering with Common Cup Ministries, has the mission to provide a care package that serves as an immediate bridge for every child as they enter the uncertainty of foster care.

For the next few months, the Church in the World Ministry Team will be highlighting some of the ministries that Faith Lutheran Church supports. This month, the highlight is a fairly new, local organization, called Wings.

Wings works in partnership with Common Cup Ministry and McLeod County Social Services in order to provide children placed in foster care with a care pack. These care packs, called Pillow Packs, are packaged in handmade pillowcases and are filled with clothing and supplies that can be taken with them to their foster care placement. This way the children have something of their very own when they spend their first night in a new place, with people they may have never met. Many times when these children are removed from their home, all they have is the clothes they are wearing.

Each Pillow Pack includes comfort items (new blanket, new stuffed animal, books, crayons, small age-appropriate toys, etc.), new pajamas, new socks/underwear, and other immediate necessities (shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrush, feminine supplies, diapers, etc.) If possible, we also try to provide the children with a new pair of shoes. In order to help simplify the process, Wings provides the social workers with all supplies for the Pillow Packs, which allows them to prepare them age appropriately for each child as the need arises.

The second part of this organization is providing gently used clothing both to kids in foster care and other families in need. Clothes are collected, washed, and sorted by size, sex, etc. We also love to work with volunteers from local organizations, clubs, groups, etc. for service projects to wash, sort and organize clothes!

Currently the greatest needs are:

- New pajamas in all sizes
- New socks and underwear in all sizes
- New shoes – appropriate for school and play
- Toiletries (shampoo/conditioner, soap/body wash, deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, combs, feminine products, diapers, wipes, etc.)
- New or gently used children's books
- Gift cards to local stores that can be given to foster families
- Monetary donations (Checks should be made to Common Cup, with Wings in the memo. Cash can also be dropped off at Common Cup and designated for Wings.)

Clothing Donations: Clothing must be gently used, age appropriate, and free of stains, rips, tears, etc. We cannot accept used underwear/socks. Washing clothing prior to donation is extremely helpful!

We are happy to pick up any donations you may have! Please contact us using the information below.

Contact Information:

Email: mcleod.wings@gmail.com

Facebook: Wings – McLeod County

Jackie Backen: 320-583-7755

Amy Nisse: 320-583-5730

Laurie Gelschus: 320-583-8705

Tami Fasching: 320-583-8706

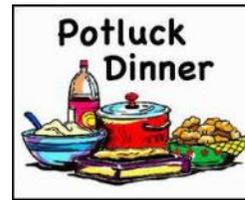
Seniors' Scene

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

Here we are in winter. It finally arrived. Brrrr below zero temps. We shiver at even thinking about going outside. Still we do want to get out of the house or apartment for a while. Cabin fever is no good.

I have a great idea for you! **Seniors' Potluck!** Now, wasn't that easy? Even with the cold air pushing in on us, can't you just smell the delectable aromas of wonderful hot dishes, casseroles, breads and rolls, pies and desserts galore? With snow and dangerous ice under foot (be very careful as you navigate the parking lot), can't you just delight in imagining yourself walking across the warm, carpeted Faith Center to your table; and eventually to the potluck tables filled with amazing selections of luscious foods? And your friends! Food always tastes better in the presence of good friends, doesn't it? The same for programs and devotions. Fellowship is a good setting for sharing Scripture, prayer, food and interesting programs.

Oh, yes; the program. I can imagine it's even better than the food. You know we support a very special



mission in India, with K.K. Alavi, and his son, Abdul who is so active in sharing the Gospel of God's love for people, especially Muslims, in India. We'll have the opportunity to get caught up a bit on that from our New Hope Mission Society chairman, Dorothy Desens. She was in India when our deceased friend, Ellen Juul, was honored for her extensive mission gifts. Can't wait to hear about that. I can even imagine that my prayers and offerings for this mission will grow.

But why imagine?? Just come! It's on **Thursday, February 28**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**, in the Faith Center. See you there! Why not bring a friend, or someone new.

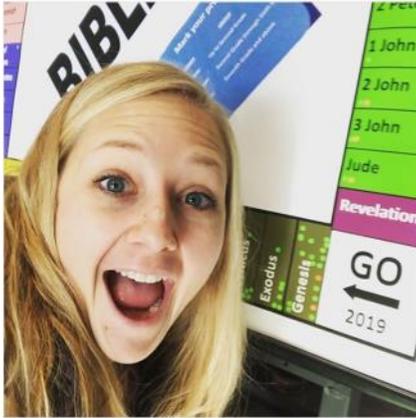
New Hope Mission Society, Inc.

Lutherans in Mission
Working Around the World . . .



Hello Faith Lutheran! I hope you all have had an enjoyable start into the new year! Many wonderful musical offerings are in the works moving forward, but we could still use some extra hands and voices for Faith Singers and our new Bells 101 rehearsal/class! If you know anyone willing to join a Faith Lutheran ensemble, please let me or any Faith Staff member know or to get more information. Also, FLY Band, our youth worship band, will have had our first meeting on Monday, January 21, at 10 a.m. If youth members are interested in learning how to lead worship in a band setting, we have plenty of openings and will accept anyone at any skill level. Blessings to you all and I hope to hear from you soon!

Will Holt, Director of Music and Worship



Bibleopoly

How is the first month of reading going for you? Do you have questions about what you have read? Do you find it hard to make time everyday to read? Are you reading as a family? Are your kids asking questions? Have you been able to get a sticker or two on the Bibleopoly Board?

We would love for you to share your questions, struggles and joys of reading. You can post your thoughts and questions on our Facebook Page, e-mail them to scottg@faithlc.com, davidw@faithlc.com or bring them into the office anytime.

Fun Fact: Because of our social media presence, we have had folks from around Minnesota and even a few other states join the Bibleopoly Challenge. It's not too late for YOU to accept the challenge!

Mugs and Muffins

Mugs and Muffins will meet on February 16, at 9:30 a.m.

Speaker - Bev Moe

Warm beverages, food and fellowship will help you combat the February cold.



Faith Lutheran
Church Women

FLCW News

~ Thank you to the helping hands who assisted with cleaning the kitchen on January 30!

~ The FLCW paid for the repairs to the dishwasher and a new motor for the ice machine. Thank you for your support of FLCW projects that allow us to help with maintenance and upkeep of the church kitchen.

Spring Rummage Sale

When it is so cold and you are stuck inside, it is hard to find things to do. How about cleaning out your closets and cupboards? It is about time to get rid of that lava lamp and incense burner, among other things. Start spring cleaning now so you can get outside in the sunshine when spring gets here. Start to set those things aside now for the rummage sale in April.





Thoughts and Prayers



Please remember all those who are

servicing 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

Doyle Thielman

Charlie & Harriet Thor

Oaks

Arlyce Drahos

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

Pines

Margaret Grorud

Doris Strand

Olivia Nursing Home

Jerome Lindquist

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

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
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
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	
Sara Wegner, Interim Finance Coordinator	FinCo@faithlc.com	
Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com	
Jim Brodd, Custodial Services Coordinator	brodd@hutchtel.net	

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE PAID
Hutchinson MN
Permit No 5

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Put mailing label here



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