

Faith Matters

Pastor's Page

May 2019



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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.

Sunday, May 5, is BLESS THE YEARS SUNDAY. Its our annual focus on the needs and contributions of our senior, or elderly, members of Faith Lutheran Church. We have been doing this for many years, and sometimes I wonder about our need to continue. But then I read things like this:

“America is aging at a rapid rate. Daily, 10,000 people are turning 65 years of age. By 2060, almost 100 million people in the United States will be 60 years old or more. The fastest growing population within the older realm will be those individuals 85 years and above. The church is already feeling the effects of the age wave. The average congregational member is in his or her 60’s. When you walk into many of our, especially rural, congregations a sea of gray overwhelms the pews; the shouts and laughter of young children are seldom heard.

“Some would surmise this is the reason the church is declining. Some would suggest that hiring a youth director would attract young families with children. While a possibility, this is not realistic in the majority of our congregations. We simply need to change our way of thinking. Instead of looking negatively upon an aging church, we should begin to see the possibilities for evangelism, discipleship and renewal.”

This quote, from *“Graying in Grace,”* a Bible study written by Pastor Brad Hales, and published by SOLA Publishing, suggests a positive way of approaching an increasing population shift. It is one that also affects Hutchinson, McLeod County, and therefore Faith Lutheran Church.

Some years ago, we heard from a speaker at Seniors’ Potluck that seniors living in small towns around us are moving to Hutchinson to be near clinics, grocery stores and seniors’ programs. Those elderly children of God are in need of spiritual care and growth in their faith in Christ. Youth think a lot of what the future will bring. Elders do that as well. The only difference is that seniors’ future is different in content. While youth look ahead to careers, marriage, parenting, etc., elders look ahead to good health, quality aging, and eternal life; and how to translate faith in God to purposeful living in their Christian life. Both ages are important. Both are matters the Christian church needs to address.

Elders could wish for a return to the past, and say with Job (29:4):
“Oh, for the days when I was in my prime.”

~ Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Financials	2
Spotlight on Seniors	3
Stump the Pastors	4
Seniors’ Scene	5
Missions	6
Prayers and Staff Directory	8
Calendar	Insert
FLYouth	Insert
Faith Kids	Insert
<i>And Much More!</i>	

Pastors Page *Continued from page 1*

Or we can look forward with the Psalmist (92:14) who believes in this challenge for seniors:
“*They will still bear fruit in old age; they will stay fresh and green.*”

The common denominator in all this is that, no matter what age we are in our lives, there will be challenges to our thinking and our faith in Jesus. Together we can support, encourage and serve each other. I would hope we can all grow in faith through Bible studies, worship, grief or caregiver groups, youth mission trips and other adventures in faith, small groups, or whatever means God uses to bring us together in faith.

In Christ our Savior and Lord,
Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

Stewardship Snapshot

I was recently visiting with an elderly man who kept reminiscing about a time decades earlier when he had gone bankrupt and had to start his life over again. At the time, he was already married and had children, so it had been a very anxious time in his life.



Yet, even as he returned to those hard days, the focus of his memories was not on the hardship, but on how God had provided for him and his family, and sustained them through that difficult period. His point in bringing up the bankruptcy was not to complain or to question, but to give thanks for God’s steadfast providence!

It can be much easier, of course, to see and trust that God always provides for us in hindsight than in the midst of our struggles. Just because of that, though, the witness of this elderly saint and others like him are important testimonies for us to hear, to help us lay our anxieties at the foot of the cross and put our trust in God, our Creator and Redeemer, to carry us through.

Upon This Rock



In April, Faith Lutheran Church and the New Hope Mission Society each received a generous bequest from the estate of Ellen Juul. Her family is in favor of using her gift to the church in the same way as the congregation chose to use Deloris Saar’s bequest last year. A tithe (10%) of it will be given to mission projects. The mission of the Church was one of Ellen’s true passions. The rest will be applied to the principal balance of the mortgage.

This additional large payment on the principal, along with the remaining pledges to the *Upon This Rock* capital campaign, should leave only about an additional \$50,000 in gifts to pay off the mortgage in 2020 as part of the celebration of Faith’s 150th anniversary. The goal of paying our 25-year mortgage in only 10 years has always seemed to be a pretty long shot, but with this gift from Ellen, it is very much within reach! Please continue to support *Upon This Rock* as the Lord enables you.

Spotlight on Seniors

by: Virginia Brodd

When I called to inform Dick and Dorothy that they had been chosen for this year's *Spotlight on Seniors*, Dorothy's only comment was, "but I have nothing to say." We laughed and found a date to sit together and talk. I realized during our visit that both Dick and Dorothy had lots to say.

Dorothy was born and grew up in Morris, MN. After high school graduation, she enrolled in St. Cloud State University where she earned her Elementary Education degree. Dick was born and grew up in Litchfield. After high school graduation, he enrolled in St. Cloud State University working towards a degree in Math & Science.



On a double date freshman year, this couple crossed paths (both were dating someone else at the time) and the romance began. Dorothy completed her education in four years, but Dick needed to leave school between his sophomore and junior year to earn tuition money. It was during this time that Dick and Dorothy got married. Dorothy got a job teaching in Fargo and Dick went back to school to earn his degree. Looking for full time teaching jobs took our newly married couple to Villard and Heron Lake before settling in Hutchinson in 1968.

When I asked them about early childhood memories of church and family, Dorothy recalls her mom leading devotions every evening around the dinner table. If conversations among the kids led to gossip, dad stepped in to set the children straight. She also added there really never was a time she didn't believe in God. It was just part of her life from early on. Dick was in agreement that remembering God, faith and prayers were just part of daily life, even though he did admit he was a little scared when saying *if I should die before I wake* during his evening prayers. Both have fond memories of their early pastors as firm scholars and being in charge of everything in the church. Dick smiled as he recalled wanting to question his pastor as to the age of the earth, because the science in him didn't agree with the pastor's interpretation. Of course, in those days you would never question a pastor, even in confirmation class.

Dick and Dorothy have been members of Faith Lutheran since they relocated to Hutchinson in 1968. I asked what brought them to Faith, since they had no family here and there were many churches to join in this community. Dick said they left an ALC church in Heron Lake so Faith was a fit there. Dorothy might have been a bit more practical when she said they were living in an apartment on Jefferson Street and Faith was a 3-block walk. Whatever the reason, it was a good choice.

When I asked about blessings and trials in their lives our conversation took on a more serious tone. Dorothy shared how she so wanted to have a family, but she was not able to carry a baby full term. It was very difficult for her to see moms and babies everywhere and work with children in the school setting. But the gift of adoption changed her trial to a blessing. It rains on the good and the bad was how Dick looked at the blessings and trials in their lives. Not every day is perfect and there are aches and pains that come with living, but every day is a gift and to be used to its fullest.

In reminiscing about the "old church" compared to today's church, both Dick and Dorothy like the more casual atmosphere. There are more lay people involved in the worship service and the members are taking ownership in the church. They like the three different-styled services - something for everyone. They also commented about the educational opportunities for all ages and the intergenerational activities Laura and Gladys make available for kids of all ages.

I promised not to list all the ways both Dick and Dorothy have shared their talents with Faith Lutheran church in the past 51 years, **but** if there are bandages to roll, hospice or newborn kits to make, pillowcase dresses to sew or deliveries of said items, Dorothy and Dick are probably involved. Every baptism candle fits beautifully in a candle holder made by Dick. And I know many reading this spotlight will have had the opportunity of working in the kitchen with Dick or Dorothy, served on a committee or been part of a Bible study with them.

As we finished up our visit because it was off to Senior Potluck for Dick and Dorothy, I sat back and smiled. Both Dick and Dorothy had plenty to say, not only with words but by their actions.

New Hope Mission Society News



Ever since Faith Lutheran Church founded the New Hope Mission Society in 2004, Dorothy Desens has served as its president. She and Dick both have invested untold amounts of time, talent and treasure into this important mission endeavor. This year, Dorothy finally managed to avoid being re-elected as president, although she continues to serve on the NHMS board. Due in no small part to her tenacious leadership and Dick's partnership with her, NHMS is having an impact on evangelism to Muslims around the world. Thank you, Dorothy!

stump the pastor

Q: Why are there different names for the place where Jesus was crucified?

A: There was actually only one name for that wretched place, but it shows up in the Bible and in English in various forms. The small hill apparently had the shape of a skull, a resemblance that may have been suggested by the executions that took place there. In his Gospel

account, Luke simply called it "The Skull." (Luke 23:33) The Greek word he used is the root of the English word "cranium."

Mark 15:22, however, calls the place Golgotha, before informing the reader that it means "the place of a skull." Golgotha is actually an Aramaic word that was taken over into Greek. The people in Jesus' day mostly spoke Aramaic, but the New Testament is written in Greek. That transliterated word, Golgotha, appears in most English translations.

Throughout much of Christian history, though, Latin was used in theology and worship. The Latin translation of Golgotha is Calvary, which was carried over into some printings of the Bible in English. Calvary moved into common Christian usage much more than Golgotha did. (There are many churches named Calvary; I don't know of any named Golgotha!) Ironically, since English translations of the Bible are based on the original Greek, not the Latin, the more popular name Calvary does not appear anywhere in our Bibles.

So, Golgotha, Calvary and the Skull (even the Cranium!) not only refer to the same place, they all have the same meaning. It is only because of the multiple languages involved in the events, writing and translation of the Bible that we have to deal with those various names.



Outdoor Worship Returns!

It is hard to believe that it is almost time to move out to Library Square for worship. We hold worship in the park at 10:10 a.m. every Sunday from Memorial Day - Labor Day. If the weather does not cooperate we move back to the sanctuary. You can listen to KDUZ at 8 a.m. or watch our Facebook page Sunday mornings for weather changes. Dust off your lawn chair, shake out a blanket, invite a friend and see you at Library Square on May 28!

Seniors' Scene *Pastor Paulus Pilgrim*

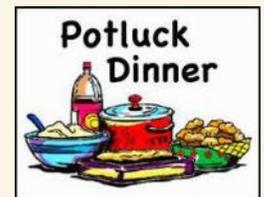
Where did the time go? Aren't we always saying that? We just began the 2018-2019 year of programs last September and now we are zeroing in on the final one. After our Seniors' Potluck meeting and program on May 30, we take a summer "breather." As someone was saying, "We need to diet a bit after all the good potluck food. But I'll be ready to eat and listen again come September."

That final program on **May 30** is "**Stump the Pastors.**" Pastors might be limping a bit. It so happens that Pastor Dave will be on his sabbatical by that time. We hope that is a restful and growing time for him but it means we are minus some pastoral wisdom that day. We might also be minus Pastor Paul, as his schedule for the future is uncertain—more loss of pastoral wisdom. That leaves Pastor Scott and myself, so please make 50% of the "stumpers" simple. I'll give Scott the hard ones and I'll take the easier ones.

Seriously, we actually look forward to hearing your questions, easy or difficult. It gives us an opportunity to hear where you are in your spiritual growth. We can leave the session with a better understanding of what exactly it is your curious minds are mulling over. That's good for both those who ask the questions and those who give answers.

So come with your questions. When you're driving and something comes to mind, pull over and write it down. When you can't sleep at night and a question pushes its way into your mind, get up and write it down (because it will be gone by morning), and bring it to **SENIORS' POTLUCK Thursday, May 30, at 12:00 noon.**

Bring a curious friend along. We'll have a basket by the door to the Faith Center to collect your questions, and paper and pencils for you to write down questions that come to your mind after you arrive.



by: Will Holt

Hello Faith Lutheran! With Lenten Services coming to a close, church holidays such as Good Friday and Easter mean much work and preparation before Faith Lutheran staff can take a well-deserved break! However, it's all a labor of love and essential to give all we can offer in the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. With that, as one can expect, music and lots of it are on the docket for the remaining time of the

month. Faith Singers will be providing offerings for not one but three services, which include that collaborative service with Christ the King on Good Friday. We will also be singing for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday so much to be excited for before April comes to a close. As far as administrative duties, we have been hard at work taking stock as to what we have regarding musical instruments and equipment. We have a lot that we can use, but there is a lot we don't use. Trying to figure out what is worth keeping and what's not has been a difficult task, but a task that needs to be done for the betterment of our church's future before we build our next phase. If you have some background knowledge as to what we have and have not talked to me already, please do so! I can use all the help I can get!

Pastor Dave's on Sabbatical

Faith Lutheran encourages pastors to take a month-long Sabbatical every five years. It's an opportunity to both study and rest. Pastor Dave is excited to be able to take advantage of this opportunity during the month of May, from April 24 through June 3. Pastor Dave intends to visit similar-sized congregations and study their methods and "steal" all their good ideas (his words ☺). During his absence look for our seminarians, Jeff Amundson and Brian Lauer, to help out and gain valuable experience.

SABBATICAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Greetings Faith Lutheran family!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father. I am writing to you all with thankfulness and gratitude for the help you have given me. I praise our God for the opportunity I have been given to serve Christ in Hutchinson and other cities throughout Minnesota. I could not do this without your continued prayers and support.



For those of you that do not know me, my name is Jake Larson. I was born and raised in Hutchinson, and attended youth group and church at Faith. I graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2018 and I am currently working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) as an Area Representative in the South Metro, Hutchinson, and Glencoe areas. My parents, Tom and Kari Larson, became members at Faith in 2017.

You may be wondering, what is the Fellowship of Christian Athletes? The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is a ministry that was founded in 1954 by Don McClanen. McClanen figured if athletes at the time could endorse cars or cigarettes, then they could also endorse Jesus. A meeting with Branch Rickey made this vision possible and there began FCA. The goal of FCA is to see the lives of coaches and athletes around the world changed through Christ. We want to help people involved with sports grow in a relationship with Christ. More recently, FCA became a discipleship ministry, meaning we are actively involved in disciplining athletes and coaches.

I specifically work with and mentor high school coaches and athletes. A large part of my job is helping the students become leaders and teach them to disciple other students. My goal is to see the coaches and athletes develop a relationship with Jesus and to help students prepare for life after school and sports; to help them understand that their identity is rooted in Jesus and what the cross stands for.

God has had His hand on my life, especially when it comes to working for FCA. I had no idea I would be in ministry. God has directed my path completely and I am so blessed for it. After high school, I started following my own desires and turned to worldly things. God saved me from this life over two years ago and I am so thankful He did. I took an internship with FCA and FCA hockey in the summer of 2017. I spent those three months training in discipleship and out in the ice rink mentoring younger hockey players, teaching them about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A year later, I took the position in the South Metro to go on staff with FCA. Since I began last summer, it has been an adventure filled with so many blessings. I have seen students grow and come to Christ in so many ways.

In order to become a staff member through FCA, I have to find my own supporters. I spent last July through December funding my ministry. I had to reach a certain goal in order to start working full-time with FCA. Thankfully, this January I reached my goal, and was able to begin working with the coaches and athletes. However, I still have a long way to go. I currently am at 35% of my monthly sustained giving need of \$3,500. That being said, I would like to invite you to be a partner in my ministry with FCA. Partners can help through prayer and monthly financial support. Specifically, I would appreciate prayers that God may call people to serve as FCA adult mentors for student discipleship groups.

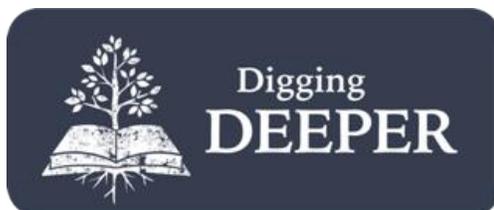
If you are interested in partnering with me in FCA or if you have more questions about this ministry and my specific role in it, I will be at Faith Lutheran on Sunday, May 12 to speak about FCA. You can also reach me by email at jl Larson@fca.org.

Blessings,
Jake Larson



Faith in Action

Come and hear from some current and past children of the congregation who are now missionaries in the world. One April 28, we will hear from Steven and Jen Freund, who are preparing to serve in Lima, Peru. Then, on May 5, it is the annual Mingle Box event, when we hear how God is using our young middle school youth. On May 12, we welcome Jake Larson, who serves with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Then on May 19, we will finish by hearing from Guy and Leia (Gruhlke) Johnson, who serve with Cru. Come hear about their ministries and how you can support them!



Jonah: The Worst and Greatest Prophet Ever

The book of *Jonah* has drawn a lot of attention, but often for the wrong reasons. This Digging Deeper class will focus on the satire, comedy, tragedy and poignant message of this unusual prophetic book. Join Pastor Scott in the office conference room April 28-May 19 for this deeper look at Jonah.

Mingle Box Event

Sunday, May 5 at 9:15 in the Faith Center

What is Mingle Box?

It is a faith-based intergenerational conversation between our confirmation students and Faith Lutheran adults.

What happens at this event?

Current confirmation students will lead a conversation based on topics contained in a small “Mingle Box” ranging from favorite Bible verses or Bible stories to the witnessing of miracles and the story of God’s work in our life.

Join us for a wonderful time of **witness** to the **power of God’s love** and work in our lives and **see firsthand** that our **future church is in good hands** with the youth of today! Thank you to the Seniors’ Task Force for providing the treats. Please join us!



Mugs & Muffins

Saturday, May 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for a **Mini Spa Day!**

Come and spend a couple of hours pampering yourself and rejuvenating your body and soul!



This summer there are a number of opportunities for all ages to participate in summer camp activities. There are family camps, camps for children, camps for adults, day camps right here at Faith, as well as a variety of youth summer programs. Find information and registrations on the website at faithlc.com or stop in the office for more information.

Acolyte Training

Sixth grade students will be participating in acolyte training on Wednesday, May 15 at 3:15 p.m. They will learn how to light the candles, help with communion, hold the puppet curtain and more. Students will begin acolyting this summer during the 8 a.m. services so make sure they don't miss this important training session. More information will follow as the date approaches but make sure to mark the date on your calendar now!



Lawn Mowers Needed!

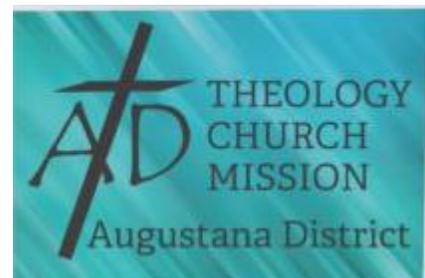
Do you enjoy being outside in the summer? Would you like to take a ride (or learn to ride) a top of the line lawn mower? This summer we are again looking for volunteers to mow the church lawn. There will be a sign up sheet in the office so you can pick whatever week or weeks of the summer that fit best into your schedule. If you want someone to show you how to operate the mower just say the word and a quick lesson is all that it will take. It takes many hands to

Annual Augustana District Convention

May 11, 2019

The district convention will be held at Living Word Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN this year.

If you are interested in attending, there are information and registration forms in the church office or on the Augustana website at augustanadistrict.org





Please Remember in Prayer

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)
- 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:

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- Cedar Crest – Silver Lake
Patricia Lambert
Janice Rohrbach
Bernice Vorbeck
Lucille Wehking
- Dassel Lakeside
Doris Betker
- Glen Oaks–New London
Lois Hoefs
- Harmony River
Margaret Alrick
Myrt Bauer
Irene Christensen
Betty Jensen
Karol Nolte
Joanne Olesen
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Doyle Thielman
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- Olivia Rehab & Healthcare Ctr.
Jerome Lindquist
- Oaks
Arlyce Drahos
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen
Barb Ryan
Charlie & Harriet Wixcey
- Pines
Doris Strand
- Prairie Senior Cottages
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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