

# Faith Matters

## Pastor's Page

## June 2019



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Last weekend, I heard Mark Vander Tuig speak. He is the national service coordinator for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), the national church association to which Faith Lutheran belongs. Mark is an engaging speaker, who loves to tell stories so much that he often has a hard time staying on topic.

That may explain why, in the presentation I heard, he made two statements that seemed to contradict each other. First, he said that churches have long been too concerned with, in his words, “butts in the pews.” Focusing too much on how many people participate in a church can be especially discouraging for small congregations in rural settings where there just aren’t that many people to draw. Later, though, Mark held up the irreplaceable value of Christians hearing God’s Word and receiving the Lord’s Supper, as the means by which God’s saving grace comes to us. Those gifts, of course, are accessible only by folks who come to worship.

So, how can we not worry about how many people attend church and maintain the vital importance of Word and sacrament, at the same time? Those two positions are not as contradictory as they may seem. It is true that the number of people in a church does not determine the worth or quality of its ministry. Some of the finest Lutheran theologians and leaders have come out of tiny rural congregations.

Faithful attendance at worship services, however, is essential to Christian faith and life. So, when worship attendance in a congregation begins to drop off, it is a matter of concern, both for the health of the church and the faith of its members—and that is a concern that I have about Faith Lutheran these days. In so many ways, this is a vital, thriving church, but it has become too common to see our people in worship only sporadically or even rarely. There is a disturbing gap between the number of children in Sunday School and families in worship. It seems that more and more people assume that they can maintain their Christian faith without regularly receiving the means of grace in worship, but it just doesn’t work.

I ask you all to join me in praying for God to stir up among us a renewed hunger for His Word, a deep longing for the Lord’s Supper, a higher priority on weekly worship and greater zeal for Christ and the Church. There is simply nothing better, more gracious or more important than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let’s not let anything deprive or distract us from receiving it faithfully from our gracious Lord.

*“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”*  
Hebrews 10:24-25

Grace and peace to you all,  
Pastor Scott Grorud

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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# Stump the pastor

*Q: Why are “blood” sacrifices specifically named or commanded in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, and not other gifts to honor God?*

A: Actually, people are commanded to give other gifts. For example, in the Law of Moses, there were offerings of grain and wine. In the New Testament, the early Church

called its members to sell their possessions to support the life of the community.

The shedding of blood, however, is the most significant type of sacrifice. That is because blood was understood to contain the force of life, a conviction that likely grew simply from observing that if any living being bled enough, it died. Blood, therefore, was considered to be sacred, that is, as containing God’s power of life and thus belonging to God.

That is why the shedding of blood is so central. Sin puts us under a sentence of death, but God mercifully promised to spare His people if they sacrificed the life of another—an animal or a bird—and to forgive their sin. In order to avoid having to shed thier blood in death, people shed the blood of a sacrifice, instead.

It worked the same way with Jesus, with the stunning exception that he himself was the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on the cross. As God’s Son, the shedding of his blood served as the once-for-all sacrifice for all sinners and never needs to be repeated. That is why animal sacrifice has never been part of Christian worship, but instead we receive the body and blood of Christ in the Lord’s supper.



## Stewardship Snapshot

As we move into summer and many of us are traveling or away at the cabin, please remember two items. One is to attend worship at a church wherever you might be. It is not helpful to go on a spiritual starvation diet for the three months of summer! The second is to continue to support Faith Lutheran with your offerings during the summer. The church’s expenses are not much lower in the summer, but offerings often are! These are both important ways of being good stewards during these beautiful summer months!



## Upon This Rock

Last month’s *Faith Matters* noted that it would take an additional \$50,000.00 in new gifts to *Upon This Rock* for Faith Lutheran to pay off the mortgage on our new building by the end of 2020. It is not clear where that calculation went wrong, but the actual figure is more in the neighborhood of \$225,000! That is in addition to any pledges to *Upon This Rock* that are still to be given. That poses a bigger challenge, for sure, but not an insurmountable one. Blessedly, it is not *required* that we pay off the mortgage next year, but it would be a wonderful way to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church!

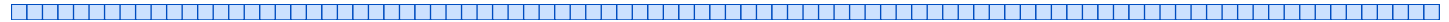


by: Will Holt

Spring has sprung with summer fast approaching! Outdoor worship services are coming Memorial Day weekend, and there is still much preparation to do before we get to May 26! However, the work to be done does not take away from the fantastic discipleship our volunteers in Faith Singers and on our Worship Planning Committee have exemplified these past few weeks. Faith Singers have provided special music several times in the final weeks of April and May providing a strong finish to their choir season until we meet again in September. Faith Singers will sing one last time, May 26, on Memorial Day week-

end. Our Worship Planning Committee provided tacos for the Free Community Meal on May 5, and have done a variety of chores from getting our choir robes dry-cleaned to finding miscellaneous items for the outdoor worship services.

In an effort further to organize the worship leader assignment process, I have made a newly minted schedule for the entire summer. Compiling both vacation time and amounts of time played, I believe I have made a fair schedule for 8:00 a.m. worship and Outdoor services providing equal opportunity of play time for all our worship leaders. FLY Band will also have opportunities to lead worship as they will be heading a service once a month, with one already scheduled as "Mission Trip Sunday" where they will play worship songs played for their mission trip. Still much to be done, but it is all exhilarating to get the ball rolling in much better weather.



### **Outdoor Worship Returns!**

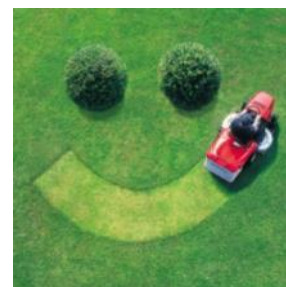
It is hard to believe that it is time to move out to Library Square for worship. We hold worship in the park at 10:10 a.m. every Sunday from Memorial Day - Labor Day. If the weather does not cooperate, we move back to the sanctuary. You can listen to KDUZ at 8 a.m. or watch our Facebook page Sunday mornings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



Many hours and many hands go into putting the annual rummage sale on. A huge "thank you" to all the women, men and FLY youth who helped to make the sale a

success once again. Everyone helped to carry, tote, move items to the third floor and garage, and then to move everything back again in time for Sunday School and Sunday services on Sunday. In spite of not having a plant sale this year, we brought in \$8,112. Local charities were invited to come in at the end of the sale on Saturday to shop for their needs. This is a way of helping our community to help others locally. Watch for next year's dates. We tried to keep as much as possible out of the landfill and recycled as much as possible.

The Rummage Sale Committee.



### **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 keep the grounds looking nice throughout the summer.





Hello Faith Lutheran!

We are delighted to have the privilege of serving on the People and Culture Team of Cru, seeking to reach college students for Christ as we equip and empower Cru Interns throughout the central United States (Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska). We are elated for these interns to bring the message of Jesus to colleges throughout the nation. We believe college students are some of the most open and available adults to share the Gospel and make disciples who take the Gospel to the nations, corporations, communities, and families - wherever the Lord would call them to lead.



*We think college students are the most open and available adults, and are excited to see God transform them from lost students to Christ-centered laborers and real world-changers.*

Thank you for allowing us to visit with you on May 19 and for your congregations prayerful support.

Guy and Leia

You can contact us by e-mail at [guy.johnson@cru.org](mailto:guy.johnson@cru.org) or support our ministry online at <https://give.cru.org/0640178>.



### **Faith Lutheran Church Summer Activities**

Just a quick reminder that a variety of summer activities will be starting over the next few weeks and some of them require early registration.

Activities range from a B23 class for parents of infants-preschool children to VBS and Day Camp for young children. There is 45er's and Middle School Madness along with Mystery Bus for older children, and then there is weekly softball for the high school students.

For camps away from home there is a Bible camp for children as well as camp weeks for families and adults throughout the summer.

Faith Family Fun will continue this summer with a St. Paul Saints Game and a Slip-n-Slide / Potluck event.

Watch your church bulletin and weekly newsletters for details as some of these events require pre-registration. You will find many of the registration forms on the FLC website at [FaithLC.com](http://FaithLC.com) or in the church office.

***Don't miss out on all the fun with family, friends and most importantly, Jesus!***



# Please Remember in Prayer

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



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

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)
- SPC Ryan Wersal (Army, Fort Meade, MD - son of Roger & Laurie Wersal)

Birchwood House  
Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

- Patricia Lambert
- Janice Rohrbach
- Bernice Vorbeck
- Lucille Wehking
- Dassel Lakeside
- Doris Betker
- Harmony River
- Margaret Alrick
- Myrt Bauer
- Irene Christensen
- Betty Jensen
- Karol Nolte
- Joanne Olesen
- Jean Pittman
- Doyle Thielman
- Harriet Thor

Olivia Rehab & Healthcare Ctr.

- Jerome Lindquist
- Oaks
- Arlyce Drahos
- Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen
- Barb Ryan
- Charlie & Harriet Wixcey
- Prairie Senior Cottages
- Pat Fimon
- Woodstone
- Don Fitzgerald
- Betty Garberich
- Lucille Yukel

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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