

Faith Matters



Pastor's Page



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How to get kids talking about their mission trip

By the time you read this, I will be returning or already back from my 25th Faith Lutheran High School Mission Trip. While I am probably dead-tired as you're reading this, I can also confidently say that my heart will be full! I love mission trips!

One of the blessings of serving here at Faith Lutheran is this congregation's strong commitment to these mission trips. The Church Council always budgets generously for them. Members step up in big ways to support our youth by participating in fundraisers or offering donations. Prayer is plentiful. Encouragement is ongoing. Thank you!

In addition, after so many trips it is fun to see the fruit that comes. Strong student-led ministry initiatives like Club 218, FLY Painters, FLY Random Acts of Kindness Crew, and several more efforts are direct results of student participating on a mission trip and then wanting to continue that mission at home. Mission trips also have gone a long way towards fostering a calling to ministry for several of our youth, including past and present staff members like Kacie (Lange) Fahey, Julie (Guggemos) Prokosch, Mike Lauer, and Gladys (Bonnema) Nissen!

So, again, thank you for helping make these trips happen! Now, there's just one more thing I need you to do: Get 'em talking! Get your son or daughter, grandkid, niece or nephew, pew neighbor, kid you recognize in the community that goes to our church, etc.. to talk about the trip! This helps them process what they experienced and makes the trip more effective.

Here are some good questions to ask:

How were you challenged over the week?

As leaders, we warn them before the week that they will be stretched beyond their comfort zones. Whether in a van of people they don't know as well, at a work site doing things they didn't think they could do or opening up and sharing in ways they'd never done, they were challenged!

How has your experience impacted how you view life?

We hope the experience wasn't all just fun and games, but actually left a mark on them! How did it impact their faith? Their relationships? Their outlook on life?

How do you hope to continue the work you did during the trip back here in Hutch?

This is an important question. Sometimes we have to travel far to see other people's problems in order to see similar issues back home. How did their mission trip prepare them to be a part of a local solution?

Continued on page 2



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: I hear people talk about the rapture. What is that?

A: The idea of the rapture is based on a peculiar interpretation of two Bible texts. One is Matthew 24:40-41 (and the parallel version in Luke 17:34-35), in which Jesus foretells that “two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one

will be taken and one will be left.” The other is Revelation 20:4-6, which talks about the millennium or the thousand-year reign with Christ of the saints who “had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.”

Those texts were combined to deduce that Christ will suddenly take faithful Christians out of this world in what is called the rapture, leaving Satan to rule the people left behind for 1,000 years of misery before the Last Day. There are many variations on that basic theme, and there are Christians who will defend their particular version of it as if the entire Gospel depends on it.

There are major problems with this teaching. One is that the term rapture does not appear in the Bible or in Christian teaching until the late 19th-century. It is a recent innovation among Christians. Likewise, Revelation 20 speaks of a thousand year reign of the saints with Christ, but it does not use the word millennium as a technical term for any doctrinal teaching.

Another problem is that teachings about the rapture are not supported by the texts on which they are based. Matthew 24 contains a series of warnings to be ready at all times for Jesus’ return in glory. The verse that follows the two quoted above reads, “Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” That is the point of the illustration in vs. 40 and 41, nothing more. The 1,000 year reign in Revelation 20 is not a new or separate event, but another way of proclaiming the promise that Christian martyrs who were killed for their faith will be raised to live with Christ forever.

The biggest problem with the rapture is that it overly emphasizes a teaching that, even if it were true, does not lie at the heart of the Gospel. It tries to motivate faith by the fear of being “left behind,” rather than by the forgiveness of sin and new life in Christ. It is driven by anxiety rather than “the peace of God that passes all understanding.” (Phil. 4:7) And it centers the faith on an obscure future event, rather than the gift of living as Christ’s people here and now.

In short, if you hear talk about the rapture, the best approach is to ignore it politely and focus instead on a verse such as John 3:16. That is the promise that drives the hope and joy of the Christian faith.

How to get kids talking about their mission trip *(continued from page 1)*

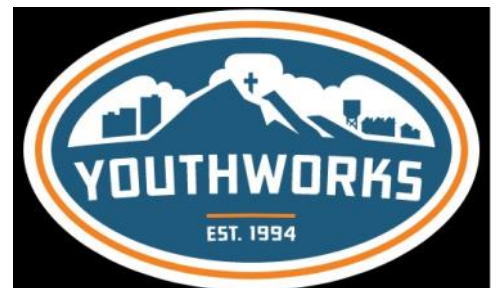
How can I continue to support you?

What prayer concerns do they have? What resources do they need to bring the mission home? Do they need encouragement to plug into youth group and worship?

Questions like these help make the mission trip not just a week-long experience, but a life-changing event!

Thanks for asking, and I’ll see you in church!

Pastor Dave



New Hope Mission Society News

Abdul Massieh recently returned to India from the U.S. and sent us a report of what is happening at the Bishara mission. Here are some excerpts from his message:

* After many years of...petitioning the Lord, (we) have recently bought a mini-bus... It will not only help our students and missionaries get to and from their homes, but will also help them in the outreach to the Muslims in South India. It will be a huge blessing to this ministry.

*We have nearly exhausted all our literature for outreach...We wish to print at least seven of our books immediately with a minimum of 5,000 copies. My father's testimony, *The End of a Search*, both in English and Malayalam, and the book "Is Mohammed Prophesied in the Bible?" have to be at least 10,000 copies as (they) are very fast moving.

*In spite of the very anti-Christian climate in India after the re-election of the Hindu fundamentalist government and the majority Muslim community in northern Kerala, many more are coming to new faith

in Jesus Christ.

*The Bible college will reopen on June 17. We have 15 new students joining the Bachelor of Theology course. A lot of repair and maintenance work has been done on campus for the arrival of our students.

*Thank you (to Faith Lutheran) for making funds available for upgrading our kitchen facility.

*Please remember (a family of new believers) in prayer. Their community has ostracized them and even cut the electricity to their house. They have been shamed in public for their new Christian belief. We are trying to relocate them so they can live without fear and live a Christian life.

*My father (K.K. Alavi) is alright health-wise... My mother is also alright. The painkillers give her much relief of her knee pain. Usha (Abdul's wife) is back to the medical school in Tamil Nadu. Kevin's school has started. Catherine will be here with me until her school reopens on July 15.



Stewardship Snapshot

At its meeting last month, Faith Lutheran's Church Council voted not to renew a line of credit at the bank that we have held for ten years. The church had never once used that credit line and it no longer seemed necessary to keep it open.

That simple decision capped a remarkable turnaround in Faith's financial situation. Go back more than ten years and the church had several hundred thousand dollars of accumulated debt (in the General Fund, not including the mortgage on the new building). Since then, Faith has *not* cut back on its ministry or diminished its vision, but the financial support of the congregation has increased dramatically. By catching the vision of Biblical stewardship, the people of Faith have established robust financial health in the church and provided the resources needed for us to pursue our mission together. Thank you for your trust, your generosity, and your faith in God's promise to provide for all your needs. Please continue to give according to how God first blesses you.

Upon This Rock



Years ago, there was a popular Easter song called, "Did You Hear the Good News?" That song title would also be a good tag line for the progress Faith Lutheran has made on paying the mortgage on the new building.

- Did you hear the good news...that the mortgage balance is now well below \$600,000?
- Did you hear the good news...that, on our current payment schedule, the mortgage will be paid off in 2021, more than *14 years ahead of schedule*?
- Did you hear the good news...that each month's mortgage payment reduces the principal by about \$17,000?
- Did you hear the good news...that some extra effort from the congregation will allow Faith to pay off the mortgage by the end of next year to cap off her 150th anniversary celebration?

If you haven't heard that good news, rejoice and thank God for such faithful providing! If you have heard it, be sure to tell your family, friends, neighbors, and pew-mates, because this is seriously good news, and a mighty reason for celebration, gratitude and continued commitment.



Worship has started in the great outdoors! There is a lot of great music lined up for the summer and much to look forward to, but with outdoor worship going in full swing, we are still in desperate need of volunteers for setup and breakdown. It's thanks to the volunteers that we already have that the outdoor worship service sounds so great, but they can't do it on their own! Please talk to me or any other staff member here at Faith Lutheran to get involved. You can also call or e-mail. The options are endless! For those of you are aren't already aware, I will be attending the Youth Mission trip this year to Montana to assist in worship with the FLY Band while we go out and help communities in need. With that said FLY Band has taken great strides this year, having led an entire worship service while I was stranded in a Florida airport. I couldn't be more thankful for their initiative without me being there. It is their dedication that makes the many facets of Faith Lutheran so special. Again, please notify me or any Faith Lutheran staff to find a way to get involved, or I will find you myself!

Blessings, Will



Calling All Bakers!

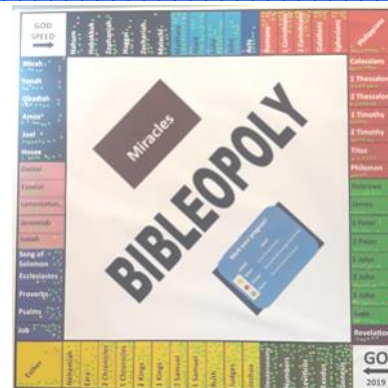
Each year, Faith Lutheran provides treats for Music in the Park one Monday evening. The proceeds are used by the Faith Lutheran Church Women for a variety of ministries at FLC. This year, we will be providing treats for the July 1 event. Yes, that is in just a couple of days. If you are a baker, we would love to have one of your pies or desserts to serve at the park. Please deliver donations to the church by 5:30 p.m. on July 1.

Bibleopoly

Can you believe that we are already half way through the year with our Bibleopoly challenge? Have you looked at all of the dots on the boards lately? It is AMAZING to see how many of you are participating in digging into the Word on a regular basis this year. Watch for number updates in the bulletin coming soon.

Fun Story: We have members who moved to Iowa a number of years ago, but were here at Christmas visiting family when we unveiled Bibleopoly. They decided they wanted to participate also. When they were here this summer visiting family again, they stopped in to put their dots on the board and were so excited to see how many people were reading with them. When it was offered that they could call the office and someone could put the dots on the board for them, they adamantly insisted they would be back to do their own. What an exciting story of how God works outside of these walls!

If you have not had a chance to join Bibleopoly yet, summer is just the time to jump in. You can take your Bible to the pool, or on the lake, or even read when you are road tripping. Just pick a book or two and start reading today. We want to see those boards totally covered in dots by the end of the year and we want YOU to be a part of the challenge! Grab your Bible and start reading today!



Church Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in honor of Independence Day.



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, Corpus Christi, TX - 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)



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

Irene Christensen

Betty Jensen

Karol Nolte

Joanne Olesen

Jean Pittman

Doyle Thielman

Harriet Thor

Oaks

Arlyce Drahos

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

Olivia Rehab & Healthcare Ctr.

Jerome Lindquist

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Woodstone

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