

# Faith Matters

## September 2019

### Pastor's Page

Remember “Building FAITH”?

Building FAITH is the purpose statement for faith which predates the Phase 1 building project. It lays out that, as a congregation, we are not just about constructing brick and mortar buildings. We are so much more than that! Building FAITH reminds us that we are about Equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12). The congregation does this by Following Jesus, Announcing the Good News, Inviting others to church, Teaching the faith, and helping those in need.

That’s what Faith Lutheran is about. That is what we as a congregation strive to do. Those are our values, our commission, our call.

But what about you? What do these congregational purposes mean for you as an individual member of Faith Lutheran, as a Christian? Even more, what does it mean to BE a member of Faith Lutheran Church? I often downplay what membership actually means. I’ll tell visitors, “You can jump into anything here - Bible Studies, Sunday School, whatever. You don’t have to be a member. The only thing you can’t do is serve on church council or vote at the annual meeting!” I know, great sales pitch, huh?

Is that all membership is? Council and annual meetings? Is that all membership means? During my sabbatical, I was impressed with some congregations that communicated some core values for their members. You might even call them expectations. New members even signed covenants to practice these values.

Hebrews 12:1-2 encourages us, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” Since you are surrounded by “so great a cloud of witnesses,” including your brothers and sisters at Faith Lutheran, “run with perseverance the race”! What does that mean? We’re going to explore that this fall. We’re going to talk about what members do - how to run the race. We’re going to explore our Faith values, and find out what “Building FAITH” means for each of us. Together, we’re going to do some

See you in Church  
Pastor Dave



335 Main St. S.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093  
Email:  
office@faithlc.com



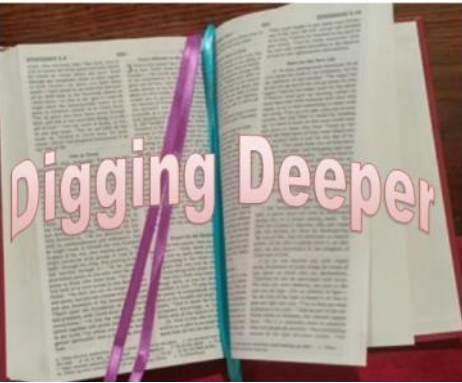
**RADIO BROADCAST**  
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.  
KDUZ 1260 AM

**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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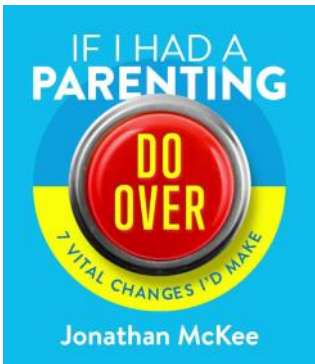
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# “Faith Seeks Understanding” Learning Opportunities for Adults



## **“If I had a Parenting Do-Over”**

Join Pastor Dave for this parenting Digging Deeper (*beginning September 15*) as we discuss seven changes we could make in our parenting, from author Jonathan McKee. The class will be full of laughs, support, and practical advice for moms and dads. It will meet in the third floor conference room.



## **Katie Weikle, Evangelist and Artist**

Katie Weikle is one of the young members of Faith Lutheran who are now engaged in Christian ministry around the world. On September 8, she will present the creative work she is doing through Youth with a Mission (YWAM) in Nuremberg, Germany, and around the world. Katie is not able to get back to Hutchinson often, so don't miss this opportunity to learn about her intriguing ministry. Come and meet Katie in the Faith Center.

## Engaging the Epistles: The Letters of St. Paul

Starting September 15 in the Faith Center. The letters that St. Paul wrote to early Christian churches comprise a large part of the New Testament and provide much of the raw material for Christian theology and doctrine. They can also be some of the most difficult books of the Bible to read and comprehend. As part of the *Bibleopoly* project, this Digging Deeper session will provide an overview of Paul's letters and their background, with the goal of making them more meaningful to the reader.



## Grief Support Group



## Grief Support Group

This new support group will be meeting on Sunday mornings, beginning September 8, at 9:15 a.m. in the office conference room. All are invited. Contact Pastor Paulus Pilgrim or Marsha Schmit for more details.

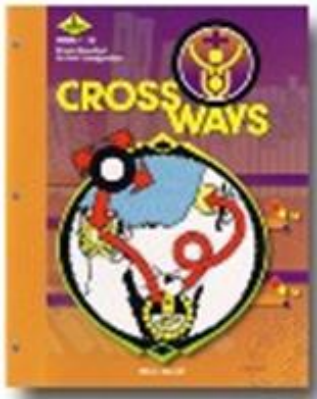
## **New Facebook Bible Study (fbBS)!**

Join Pastor Dave online on Facebook every Thursday at 9 p.m. starting September 12 for a short, interactive Bible study on St. Paul's letter to the Galatians. Each session will last between 30-40 minutes. Get the housework done, the kids in bed, grab your Bibles and your device, and prepare to dig into God's Word!



**Crossways Bible Studies Return**

A new year-one *Crossways* Bible study will begin in September. *Crossways* is a “big picture” study of the entire Bible. It includes an overview of each book, placed within a framework that shows the Bible’s “big story.” It combines Bible reading, commentary, and illustrations to show how the whole Bible fits together. Want to know your Bible better? *Crossways* is for you!



*Crossways* classes meet for 20 weeks per year for three years.

**Year 1**—The NEW class will begin on *Thursday, September 19* at *6:30 p.m.* in the Faith Center. Talk to Pastor Scott to sign up for this new class or to get more information.

Year 2 will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m.  
Year 3 will resume on Monday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.

*Crossways* materials can be purchased or several sets are available to be borrowed from the church. Contact Pastor Scott for more details and/or to register.



**Jeremiah: Severe, Suffering, Steadfast Prophet**

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” One suggestion was Jeremiah. Who was this prophet whom some people saw reflected in Jesus? What is the message of his long and varied book? Pastor Scott will lead an in-depth study of the book of Jeremiah on Mondays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, starting on September 9. Come to learn about this great servant of God and how his ministry still speaks to us today. Everyone is welcome to attend. No previous knowledge required!

**A New Faith Groups Small-Group Study Is Coming Soon**

The next Faith Groups small-group study is “‘Blessed Is the One Who Reads...the Prophecy’: The Meaning and Message of *Revelation*.” The sessions are currently being filmed. Groups will start meeting in late September and conclude before Thanksgiving. Watch for your chance to join an existing Faith Group or form a new one to learn more about this inspiring, but much misunderstood book of the Bible.



**Year-Round Ongoing Bible Studies**

- 12:00 noon Tuesday Lectionary Study
  - 6:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Men’s Bible Study
  - 6:30 a.m. Friday Morning Women’s Bible Study
  - 9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Women’s Bible Study
- Contact the church office to learn more about any of these Bible Study groups this fall.



Getting to know the Staff  
By Marsha Schmit

Our new Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Kristen Matthews, started at Faith on August 8. Originally from Chaska, Kristen has one younger brother named Justin and “two lovely parents,” along with a large extended family. Kristen told me she is most excited to get to know all the kids. “The kids have so much energy! I am excited to see how I can serve in this capacity and love them like Jesus does!” she said. She will be moving soon to Hutchinson, which will be the first time she will be on her own.



Kristen is a “lover of ice cream and is passionate about Jesus, music, being outside, Chacos (a type of sandal) and being with people.” She loved attending Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and says it “changed and shaped her” into the person she is today. She met so many amazing people and grew so much while she studied elementary education. (She is fully licensed to teach in MN). Kristen was also involved in many organizations while attending college, such as coordinating Gustavus Youth Outreach, Choir of the Christ Chapel, founder of Gustavus Vespers, among others.

Because Kristen is a huge fan of Bible camp, she spent three summers working at Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp in Amery, WI as a counselor, team leader and worship coordinator.

These experiences at camp helped her to grow to love ministry and being with kids, so after college she accepted a position at a church in Monticello, MN where she was the Middle School Ministry Director.

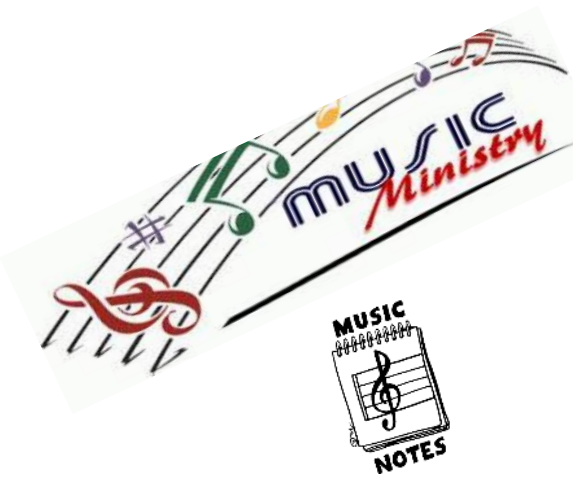
When I asked her what led her to apply at Faith, she said she ran into Eric Haffley who was a fellow Gustavus grad and a member here. He told her about the youth position at Faith and encouraged her to apply. She said, “After doing research, having conversations, and hearing the voice of God,” she applied!

Her favorite Bible Verse, Matthew 5:16, fits her personality and goals here: “Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Want to get to know Kristen better? She invites you to stop by and say “Hi”!



*Faith youth surrounding and laying hands on Kristen as she is installed into her position at Faith Lutheran.*



Greetings Faith Lutheran!

As summer comes to a close, there is much on the horizon for fall! Choir will begin its rehearsals on September 4 and our three service schedule will resume, with more opportunities to dedicate music to Christ’s glory. I encourage everyone to find ways to get involved! Either speak to me about joining choir or let me know if you play an instrument and we can plug you in. I would also like to extend my thanks to all our wonderful volunteers. It is because of you that our services run so smoothly. Again, please let me know if you would like to get involved!

Blessings,  
Will



*Q: Who came up with the names of the books of the Bible?*

A: As many members of Faith have taken on the *Bibleopoly* challenge to read the Bible intentionally this year, it has raised all sorts of questions. Some concern important faith issues. Others, like the question above, are more of a curiosity. But still, curious minds want to know!

No original manuscripts of the books of the Bible exist, but scholars believe that none of them had titles. One basis for that conclusion is that the books in the Old Testament were originally written in Hebrew, but many of the titles are Greek. It seems clear that the titles were added only when those books were translated into Greek. For the New Testament books, the earliest manuscripts that have been found do not include titles.

Some of the titles that were eventually given to the Biblical books reflect their content. For example, Genesis means “beginning” or “origin,” and it relates the creation of the world and the founding of Israel. Deuteronomy means “the second law” and it repeats laws that God gave earlier and also contains many additional laws for Israel. The same is true for New Testament books like Acts of the Apostles and Revelation.

Many other books were simply given the author’s name as a title. The prophetic books of the Old Testament and the four Gospels are examples. That did not work with the letters of Paul, however, since he wrote so many. So, his letters are named for the cities where those who received them lived. Romans went to Christians in Rome, Corinthians to Corinth and so on.

The titles of the Biblical books are not essential to their content. They can, however, tip off the reader as to what to expect in them and how to approach them.

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### Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

Our congregation continues to make amazing progress on paying off the mortgage on the new addition. This summer, the church completed the annual re-amortization of the loan, so that 93% of our monthly payment now goes to principal! We also received some extra offerings to pay down the principal, so that the church has now retired about 85% of the loan in only nine years and has only a bit more than \$500,000 remaining. We are not there yet, but the possibility of paying off the loan as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2020 seems ever more possible! Please continue to give generously to Upon This Rock as the Lord blesses you to do so.



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#### Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church:

**8:00 a.m. First Word**  
**(Traditional Service in the sanctuary)**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School and**  
**Confirmation Class**

**9:15 Multiple Adult Education**  
**Opportunities**

**10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Service**  
**(Blended service in the sanctuary)**

**10:10 a.m. Foundation Service**  
**(Contemporary service in Foundation)**

#### For the Youngest Members of Faith

**Activity Bags: A Biblically themed bag of activities**  
**hanging by the church entrances for children to use.**

**Activity Sheets: Work pages found near the Bible**  
**Bags geared for children 5-10.**

**Faith Seeds: A time during each service when**  
**children of all ages are invited to come forward for a**  
**lesson geared towards them. Parents and “big kids”**  
**are invited, too!**

**Sprouts: After Faith Seeds, during the 10:10**  
**services, children ages 3-6 can leave for a short**  
**hands-on lesson. They will return to their families**  
**after the sermon.**



### Seniors' Scene

Someone said to me last Sunday, *"I can't wait for Seniors' Potluck to get started again."* And, here it is—time to get the news out about our first fall meeting, since it's less than a month away.

Our "kick off" program will interest you. Tim Sanken, who has been serving with "For Hearts and Souls," a Christian medical group, since 2004, will be our speaker. "For Hearts and Souls" is a non-profit group, staffed with Christian doctors and nurses who specialize in treating congenital heart defects in children. They share their faith in Jesus as well as their medical skills. This group travels to Mongolia, Kurdistan (northern Iraq), Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Kosovo, Malawi, and Zambia. Tim has made 21 trips in his travels with these dedicated servants of Christ. His presentation will focus primarily on two trips he made earlier this year to Kurdistan.

**Seniors' Potluck** meets on **Thursday, September 26**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**. See you there! Bring some friends to hear a heart-warming presentation.



### Calling All Bakers!

It is time to start planning for the annual Fall Extravaganza Cake Walk! We are looking for people willing to donate cakes, cupcakes, cookies, bars, etc. for this exciting annual event. The Extravaganza is on September 8 and treats need to arrive at the church by 9 a.m. to be packaged for the Cake Walk. Last year, we ran out of goodies well before the end of the Extravaganza. Please plan to bring a treat and then stay for lunch, enjoy the excitement, and participate in the games. A wonderful day of fellowship and entertainment for all ages!



**Save the date!** Sunday, October 13  
from 4-6 p.m. Watch for details in the  
bulletin in mid-September for this exciting  
social event!



### **Augustana District Women of the Word (WOW) Annual Gathering**

*Registration deadline is fast approaching!*

The 2019 Fall Gathering of the Women of the Word will be on Saturday, September 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Peace Lutheran in Nevis, MN. The theme is "For Such a Time as This." Cost is \$20, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is September 14. Forms are available in the church office. Anyone interested in carpooling should leave a message at the church office.







**Thank You Faith Lutheran Church for  
Your Visionary Mission Outlook**  
*Reflections from Pastor Paul*

Recently, I attended a long range planning meeting of the board of Friends of Madagascar Mission. Ten years ago, this mission was given birth and now has a dynamic presence in supporting the Christian witness in Madagascar. Its leader, Pastor David Lerseth, now 77 years old, has provided unique and wise leadership to this mission that from the grassroots has raised over a million dollars for evangelical and caring outreach to this desperately poor country. Working with the Malagasy Lutheran Church, FOMM extended its witness through supporting some 50 evangelists, along with ministries in a major hospital and multiple prisons.

Pastor Lerseth, with his wife, has undergirded the administrative costs of this mission. Now the board of FOMM is looking to grow this witness even further, while having to come to terms with bringing on other leadership to partner with Pastor David. He is healthy

and giving visionary leadership. The board is also recognizing, however, that we will need to find creative ways to cover administrative costs. It cannot forever have a leader of the mission working without pay plus covering its expenses.

This gave me an opportunity to share how our congregation has stepped up in multiple ways to provide leadership to various mission efforts. This, of course, includes major contributions to the missions themselves like New Hope Mission Society and others through the Augustana District. It has meant several members giving of their time to serve in leadership capacities.

Faith has also seen fit to deploy me with some financial remuneration to work in fostering some of the missions in which we are heavily invested. FLC has also covered the costs of the financial administration of some of these missions like NHMS and the Augustana District. Some of that is changing now, but this congregation can be proud of its initiatives in what is often unseen mission support.

I hope that our witness as a congregation will move other congregations and individuals to give leadership that both fosters significant witness and lowers the cost of administering those endeavors. THANK YOU on behalf of many missions near and far.



**News from the New Hope Mission Society**

K.K. Alavi and Abdul Massieh, whose ministry in India is the chief mission of NHMS, both faced health concerns this summer. However, after traveling to a mission hospital, they both received good reports and are feeling much better. Thank God for pouring out his healing power on them.

Abdul has been leading a relief effort for people caught in flooding in the region of Kerala, where he lives. This has become an important part of the Bishara mission, in order to pass muster with the government in India, which is increasingly hostile to Christianity. Pray for strength and resources for Abdul and his co-workers as they serve those in need and witness to Christ as Lord.



**Free Community Meal**

**The monthly Free Community Meal calendar does not have a sponsor for the October or November meals. Would you, your family, your Faith Group, or your Bible study group support this ministry by supporting a meal? Contact the office for more details on how you can help support this vital ministry.**





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 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, 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  
Jerome Lindquist  
Karol Nolte  
Joanne Olesen  
Jean Pittman  
Doyle Thielman  
Harriet Thor

Oaks  
Marcella Brede  
Arlyce Drahos  
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen  
Barb Ryan  
Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

Prairie Senior Cottages  
Pat Fimon

Woodstone  
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 & Worship	willh@faithlc.com	
Kristen Matthews, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	kristenm@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

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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**

**Newsletter via  
USPS or E-mail?**

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