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SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
AND 5 P.M.  
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.  
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

**The Life of Faith**

It's a handful of Danish immigrants, huddled around the Word in some now-forgotten home in Hutchinson. It's building a church at Fourth and Main. It's building a sanctuary during the depression. It's buying an old church on Grove Street to expand ministry and outreach. It's tearing down the old to build a new phase. It's looking forward to Phase Two.

**The life of Faith**

It reaches the surrounding communities. It builds Hope Centers. It shares in Common Cup. It reaches to India, to Ethiopia, to Madagascar, to Germany, to Costa Rica, and even to places like the University of Minnesota.

**It's the life of Faith**

It's First Word, Sanctuary, and Foundation. It's a hundred and fifty kids on Wednesdays. It's choirs making a joyful noise. It's quilters providing warmth and love. It's seniors sharing good food and fellowship. It's people digging deeper into God's Word. It's Spit n' Shine crews, bulletin folders, front desk workers, lawn mowers, alter guilds, ushers, acolytes, and more.

It's the life of Faith. It's life here at Faith. And it's been that way for a hundred and fifty years! It's been a hundred and fifty years of good times

**Pastor's Page**

and bad times. It's been a hundred and fifty years of pastors, staff, committees, circles, Luther Leagues, Uff-da shows, confirmation classes, and Christmas programs. It's been 150 years of faithful preaching, Word and Sacrament, and growing in the Lord. It's been 150 years of sinners in need of a Savior. That's the life of Faith.

**It's time to celebrate**

Whether you've been a member of Faith Lutheran all of your life, for a couple of months, or have just been visiting, you are a part of the life of Faith. You are a part of the Faith Family. You are invited to the party. This year, 2020, is going to be a year of celebrating, of remembering, of commemorating, of old friends, of giving thanks, and of looking forward.

Join us Sunday, January 12 as we get this party started.

Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Faith Lutheran.

You look marvelous.

See you in church!

Pastor Dave

Inside this issue:

Coming Up	2
Stump the Pastors and Financials	3
Digging Deeper	4
Missions	5
Seniors' Scene	6
Prayers/Staff Directory	7
Calendar	Insert
FLYouth	Insert
Faith Kids	Insert
<i>And Much More!</i>	



**Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Faith Lutheran Church!**

As we enter 2020 and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Faith Lutheran Church we are looking forward to spending time looking back through trivia, pictures and more. Watch future *Faith Matters*, church bulletins, the church website and Facebook page for glimpses into the past, celebrating the present and looking to the future.



**Annual Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregational meeting will be held in the sanctuary on Sunday, January 26, beginning at 12 noon.

Lunch will be served in the Faith Center by the youth from 11-12 so you don't even have to leave. Childcare will be provided and the meeting usually only lasts about an hour.

It is very important that this meeting is well attended as a quorum is needed to vote on any church business presented.

Please plan to be there!



**Bibleopoly Challenge Celebration**

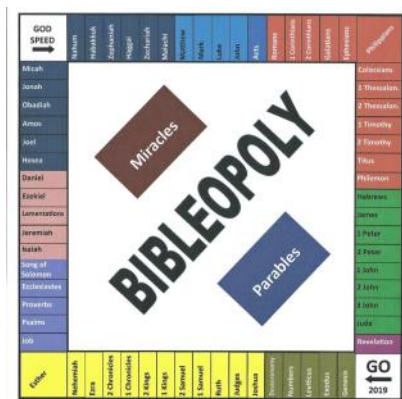
The end is here! Bibleopoly 2019 has come to an end, BUT that does not mean that we should stop digging into scripture on a daily basis!

Come join your friends and fellow Bibleopoly participants on Tuesday, January 14, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Faith Center.

Supper will be served and the celebration will be one to remember. To top it off, you will be the first to see the new 2020 reading plans.

To plan accurately for food, a head count will be required by Sunday, January 12, to attend. Please RSVP to the office by calling 587-2093 to reserve your spot.

Whether you read just a book or two, or you completed the whole Bible in 2019, we hope to see you there!





**Q: How did Faith Lutheran get started back in 1870?**

A: According to an historical sketch of the church written by Pastor H.A. Svendsen in 1938, Faith Lutheran, originally called Danish Evangelical Lutheran, was founded by six families of immigrants, recently arrived from Jutland, Denmark. Jutland is not a city, but the main peninsula of Denmark, which also includes many islands. Of the six families, the one name that was recorded was Jonas Petersen, whose granddaughter, Muriel Zajicek, remained a member of Faith until her death in 2016.

The whole nation of Denmark became Lutheran in 1537, when King Christian III approved a new church order organized by Johannes Bugenhagen, one of Martin Luther's close associates. From then on, Lutheran theology and worship services became the norm throughout Denmark. So, when Danish immigrants came to America, those who retained their Christian faith (a disturbingly high number of them did not) started Lutheran churches like ours.

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### Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

Nine years ago, Faith Lutheran stepped out in faith and took on a \$3.2 million mortgage on the beautiful building addition that serves us so well. Through remarkably steady support and a handful of very large gifts, the remaining mortgage balance at the start of 2020 is **only \$440,000!**



Each monthly payment reduces that amount by \$18,000, for a total of \$216,000 in the next year. The church also retains about \$85,000 in reserve funds (an amount that might rise by year's end). At some point, that can all be applied to the mortgage as well, leaving only **\$139,000** in additional gifts needed to pay off the mortgage entirely in Faith's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!

What a grand capstone to our year-long celebration that would be! Do you think we can join together to reach that goal? Especially for those who have already completed their pledges to Upon This Rock, additional gifts this year could make that a blessed reality.

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### Changing the Pattern

As of this writing, Faith Lutheran still needs about \$120,000 in offerings to the General Fund to break even in 2019. To reach that goal, offerings in December would have to match last year, which was a record high total. We hope and pray that the same flood of generosity will pour out this year.



This pattern of giving, however, is not healthful. In recent years, nearly a quarter of the total offerings to the church have been given in just the last two months, and most of that in December. Through the rest of the year, giving has remained at the same level for several years now. The church has also kept its annual budget as flat as possible, but that could only go on for so long. The 2020 budget will likely have a larger, though still pretty modest increase.

Starting in 2020, Faith's leaders are urging the family of Faith to make three commitments:

- 1) Pray that God will inspire the members of Faith to begin to change this famine-feast giving pattern;
- 2) Determine your giving as a percentage of your income, whether 1%, 5%, 10% or more;
- 3) Spread that giving as evenly as possible over all 12 months of the year.

It would be wonderful to reach the end of Faith's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and *not* need enormous year-end offerings in order to avoid a financial crisis. Will you commit to helping change this pattern?





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

**Boy Wonder / Boy Wondering: Jesus in the Temple**

Join Pastor Scott in the Faith Center on Sunday, January 5 for a special Epiphany Day Digging Deeper. This session will look at the appointed texts for January 6, Luke 2:41-52.

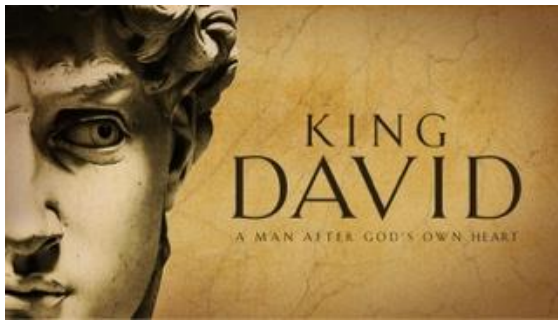
The Bible records just one episode from Jesus’ childhood, when he got lost from his parents as he soaked up information from the priests in the Jerusalem temple. This one-session study will explore the intriguing insights this text gives into Jesus’ experience as a human child.

**Grief Support Group**



**Grief Support Group**

Last fall Pastor Paulus Pilgrim and Marsha Schmit led a Grief Support Group on Sunday mornings. This group will begin meeting again on Sunday’s from January 5 - February 23 at 9:10 a.m. in the office conference room. All are welcome!



**David’s HEART**

Come explore the life of David as we look at his HEART. From his anointing to Goliath, Bathsheba and his downfall, we’ll learn from this man after God’s own heart about Hope, Endurance, Adventure, Relationships, and Thanksgiving. Join us in the Faith Center January 12 - February 23.

**How We Got Here: The Story Behind and Beyond Faith Lutheran’s 150 Years**

As our congregation kicks off its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, this class will explore the immigrant background and Church context of Faith Lutheran’s ministry in order to understand better the heritage we are celebrating. It will meet in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-floor conference room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings from January 12-February 23.



**Greetings Faith Lutheran!**

Christmas is here, and the advent of a new year to boot! Of course, there is plenty to be excited about amidst our Christmas season, but our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is going to be a year-long event full of special music! If I had the ability to be a one-man-band, I would do so in a heartbeat, but that is not the case. Music is a collaboratory art, and there is no better way to collaborate than to glorify Christ. So please let me know if you are interested in jumping in. I certainly cannot do it alone! Be it Faith Singers, volunteering with our middle school bell choir, or even performing on your own, I would be happy to make it happen. Just let me know!

Blessings,  
Will





## **Arrogance? Or, We Cannot But Share the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

*End of the Year Reflections from Pastor Paul*

To listen to endless voices today, we Christians, who feel compelled to bear witness to Jesus Christ as Good News for all people near and far, are arrogant and badly misdirected. In a world so divided, so filled with hatred, our passion should simply be to work in multiple ways for human togetherness, solidarity.

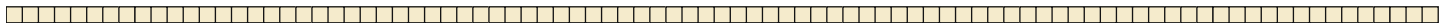
What if, however, all God's people from every land need above all else to be reconciled to God? What if "we have all sinned and turned to our own way"? What if this turning inward and resultant turning away from or on others is the biggest problem we face? Would we not then look beyond ourselves and our own chosen paths to fix what ails us?

Dear friends, we are in partnership with people in places like Ethiopia, Madagascar, India, and Estonia, who cannot help but share Jesus Christ with those in their lands. In very different settings, we have

brothers and sisters in Christ sharing Good News that they have come to know is needed by every child of God on this earth.

In some settings, the response is so great, that our partners are now struggling with how to shepherd new converts to help them grow in Christ. In other settings, there is resistance and even violent reaction to this witness, which threatens the lives of our partners.

As we go into the new year, I invite you to rejoice with me and so many of our partners in the privilege we have to work together in this witness to our Lord and Savior. We may be ridiculed by many, but we cannot help ourselves. Our Lord Jesus goes before us. He empowers our witness through the Spirit. We therefore go to "make disciples (of Jesus Christ) of all nations."



### **News from the New Hope Mission Society**

The chief ministry that NHMS supports is based at the Bishara complex in the state of Kerala in southwest India, but its outreach extends far beyond that. Pastor K.K. Alavi recently reported that outreach teams from Bishara have visited 300 districts in India, and that Christian literature has been given or sent to 150,000 homes. Graduates of the Shaliach Bible college at Bishara are leading house churches



in northwest and northeast India. Beyond that, NHMS also supports Christian witness among Muslims in Nigeria and students at the University of Minnesota. All this work is done on a small annual budget that is entirely dependent on donors. Your mission gifts to NHMS help to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations."

## Seniors' Scene

HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone! How many times do you wish that to someone? How many times do you receive that greeting from someone else? A common response is, "Where did 2019 go?"



2020 is the year for a new Main Street as Highway 15 gets a face lift. It's also the year to sing "Happy Birthday" to Faith Lutheran Church for 150 years of God's blessing, guidance, and God's call to faith and new life in Him, serving others in His Name.

It's also a new year of **SENIORS' POTLUCK** meetings, projects and Christian fellowship. It all begins on **Thursday, January 30, 2020**. We'll share our potluck meal and conversation together, starting at **12:00 noon**. Then we will hear from Dorothy Desens, who, along with some FLC partners, works with Orphan Grain Train and Global Health Ministries. You'll hear what exactly these two agencies do, why what they do is so very important and how they are such a blessing to large numbers of people throughout the world. This will inspire you, and you may even find some simple things you can do to serve God through these organizations.

Please, bring friends, perhaps someone who hasn't ever attended. They may go away saying, as I've heard so often, "*This was great. I didn't realize how good this Seniors' group is!*"

**See you at Seniors' Potluck on Thursday, January 30, 12:00 noon.**



**Plan to join us for:**

### **Mugs & Muffins**

**When: Saturday, February 1 @ 9:30 a.m.**

**Where: Faith Center**

**Please watch for more information to come!**



### **Christmas Tea Thank You!**

Thank you everyone who participated in the Christmas Tea - decorating tables, preparing food, participating in the program and those who attended the event. It was a wonderful time together.



### **Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) Board Meeting**

The next FLCW board meeting will be Monday, January 13, at 4:30 p.m. This meeting is open to all women of Faith Lutheran and new members are encouraged to come. New members always bring new and fresh ideas. Hope to see you there!

### **Church Rummage Sale**

The annual rummage sale is right around the corner. This year it will be held April 23-25. As you do your new year cleaning or after-Christmas purging, set aside the things you wish to donate. Lots of hands will be needed to set up April 20-23 as donated items come into the church. Mark these dates on your calendar now and think about how you will be able to help!



# Please Remember in Prayer



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

- Braiden Bjorge (Marines - grandson of Sandy Curtiss)
- Mike Bjorge (Air Force, Qatar - son-in-law of Sandy Curtis)
- 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)
- Pat Scharn (Air Force, Qatar - husband of Elizabeth)
- Col. Rob Skaar (Minneapolis/St. Paul Air National Guard - son of Dave & Marian Skaar)
- LT Brett Stadskev (Navy, Corpus Christi, TX - son-in-law of Judy & Tom Felber)
- Corporal Nathan Thunstrom (Marines, Reserves - 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

Bernice Vorbeck

Lucille Wehking

### Dassel Lakeside

Doris Betker

### Harmony River

Margaret Alrick

Myrt Bauer

Irene Christensen

Betty Jensen

Ruth Larson

Jerome Lindquist

Karol Nolte

Joanne Olesen

Jean Pittman

Doyle Thielman

Harriet Thor

### Meeker/Manor Litchfield

Harold (Swede) Sandgren

### Oaks

Marcella Brede

Arlyce Drahos

Beverly Kirchner

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

### Pines

Mayonne Martin

### Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Charlie & Harriet Wixcey

### Woodstone

Betty Garberich

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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:

- F**OLLOW JESUS
- A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
- I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE
- T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
- H**ELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

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