

Faith Matters ~ Feb. 2020

150
THE LIFE OF FAITH
Past Present Future
 1870-2020

Pastor's Page

The celebration of Faith Lutheran's 150th anniversary is underway and we are really excited about the many events that are planned. It provides a rare opportunity to look back with profound thanksgiving on the long, faithful ministry of this church.

Faith Lutheran was founded by six families of Danish immigrants who had only recently come to this country. Their faith, vision and commitment are astounding and inspiring. With all the pressing tasks they faced, not least simply surviving in a new land, being able to hear the Gospel and receive the sacraments was a top priority. They did not have their own pastor for the first 14 years, yet those devout believers kept gathering whenever they could for worship.

Just because that is such an inspiring story, however, it is easy to get nostalgic about the past and look at it through rose-colored glasses. But the immigrant Church faced severe struggles as it tried to get established in this country, and especially so among Danish immigrants. In a brief history of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC), the church body to which Faith Lutheran belonged up until 1960, Theodor Jensen describes how bleak the situation was.

(There) was a pervasive indifference to the church and its message among many

Danish settlers. True, not a few had been hoping and praying that someone would come to establish the church among them. But these were a minority. President G.B. Christiansen said in his report (to the UELC) in 1897, "It is a frightening fact that of approximately 250,000 Danes in America only about 60,000 to 65,000 have anything to do with religion."

Many had become indifferent to the church before they left home. Some had become openly hostile to the church, influenced by an anti-Christian atmosphere in Denmark during the latter half of the 19th century.... The Church of Denmark...in the 1850's had become impersonal and formalistic. Many of its clergy were little more than government functionaries in the church. To vast numbers of Danes, the church was simply a convenient place to have their children baptized and confirmed, and to have themselves married and buried. Spirituality was in a sad state and the clergy could not be expected to help; they were a part of the problem. (*Church Roots*, 1985, pp. 146, 149-50)

Continued on page 3



335 Main St. S.
 Hutchinson, MN 55350

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

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.

Inside this issue:

Stump the Pastors and Anniversary Update	2
Financial Update	3
Missions	4
Seniors' Scene	5
2020 Leadership Roster	6
Prayers/Staff Directory	7
Calendar	Insert
FLYouth	Insert
Faith Kids	Insert
<i>And Much More!</i>	

**STUMP
THE
PASTOR**
150th Anniversary Edition

Q: Who sculpted the statue of Christ that stands in Faith's sanctuary?

*A: That statue is a replica of a famous marble carving by Bertel Thorvaldsen, a precocious and famous Danish sculptor. Although he spent the majority of his adult life in Italy, he returned to Denmark in 1838, when his statue was placed in the Church of Our Lady, later known as the Copenhagen Cathedral. He called it *Christus* or *Christus Consolator**

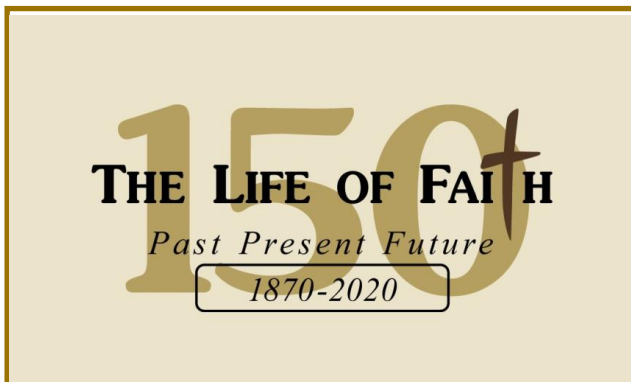


(Christ the Consoler). The inspiration for it was Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." As part of the same project, he also carved statues of the twelve apostles.

Thorvaldsen was considered a national hero in Denmark and his *Christus* statue held a special place in the hearts of Danish immigrants to America. Many, if not most, of the churches built by Danish Lutheran have a copy of it displayed. Copies of the statue are also displayed in many other places, including—ironically—many Mormon churches.

Faith Lutheran Anniversary Apparel

Available NOW! You can order a variety of Faith Lutheran Church apparel options! There are t-shirts, sweatshirts and more! Make sure to get your favorite or favorites to wear on upcoming FLC Apparel Sundays!



How You Can Help

The Life of Faith is about a **community** of people, **brought together** in fellowship and a **common faith in God Almighty and His Son Jesus Christ, our Savior**. Please consider this a personal request from our hearts to yours as we ask you to consider how you might **help** with a year of **celebrating The Life of Faith**. From small tasks to larger projects, from painting to book layouts, we are looking for ANY and ALL help you can provide.

Look for the goldenrod sign-up sheets outside the sanctuary or outside the church office. Sign up to take part in making this year of celebration one to remember!

Pictorial Directory Time

Pictured at the right is one of the first pictorial directories made for Faith Lutheran in 1969. In this year of celebration in 2020, it is once again time to put together a new pictorial directory of Faith's members. Watch for exact dates coming in May and September and make sure to find a time to get your picture taken for this special 150th anniversary edition. There is no purchase required and all those who have their picture taken will get a free copy of the anniversary edition of the directory. The more people who participate the more accurately this special edition will be.



Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

In response to this sad situation, a renewal movement called the Inner Mission started in Denmark and we know that those six families that started Faith Lutheran were deeply affected by it. The spiritual influence of the Inner Mission movement helped drive their determination to found a congregation in Hutchinson as soon as they could.

This background makes the mere fact that Faith Lutheran was started no small miracle, and a reason for much gratitude and wonder. It also informs our call for the next 150 years, reminding us that we can never take the Church for granted, but are called to pass on the faith to the next generation, so that they can pass it on to the next. To renew and strengthen that conviction would, hands-down, be the most important outcome for this year-long celebration!

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Scott Grorud



Stewardship Snapshot



The family of Faith Lutheran came through again, and in a big way! Offerings given to the church in December hit a new record high and by a pretty significant margin. It was enough to meet all our expenses for the year and to begin the new year with a financial cushion, so that Faith will not have to borrow any money to meet expenses. It was so encouraging to see such generous support and ownership of this ministry God has entrusted to us here. As we move into 2020, it would be helpful to see more of that giving spread throughout the year, but no one can argue about the bottom line for 2019. It was simply amazing! **Thank you! Thank God!!**



Greetings Faith Lutheran!

Hello Faith Lutheran Church,

I am excited once again to provide you with an update. It was a joy to celebrate Christmas with you and I am so looking forward to all that we will accomplish in the new year.

Upcoming events, activities, and opportunities to be involved in music include middle school handbell choir, which will be starting again soon.

Faith Singers are always excelling and are currently tackling more difficult music due to our increase in size.

I hope you've enjoyed the 150th anniversary song, "the Life of Faith." Thank you so much to all who were involved in the project. It has been wonderful to celebrate such a milestone of this institution through song. If you're interested in hearing the studio version, it is available on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

I am deeply looking forward to this upcoming year, especially celebrating the Easter season with all of you. Lots to look forward to!

Blessings,
Will





Brothers and Sisters in Christ Living Under Threat, Facing Unique Challenges

Reflections from Pastor Paul

To be a witness to Jesus Christ in Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Madagascar, or Estonia is to live under threat in unique ways. Indeed, we in America find our witness threatened in our own unique situation.

It is all too easy for all of us who bear the name of Jesus Christ to be overwhelmed by our own circumstances and not be able to empathize with brothers and sisters in distant lands. Before we can be helpful, we simply need to have our hearts open to them. We need to become more aware of the unique challenges facing fellow Christians near and far.

We Christians have lived as a comfortable majority in this land, and now some of us are beginning to

recognize that we are a shrinking ignored, and sometimes even ridiculed. Could this be a way for our Lord to awaken us to the threats and challenges others are facing more intensely?

The vitality of our witness, the passion we have for generous support of the witness of our brothers and sisters in Christ of our mission partners, depends on our entering into their threat, their challenges. There are any number of us here at Faith Lutheran Church more than willing to be instruments of our Savior in making those heart connections. We would love for the opportunity for such conversations.



News from the New Hope Mission Society

One day recently, the Hutchinson Police Department was using Faith's building for a training exercise. At one point, two officers opened the door to the office hallway and, since they had planned to use only unoccupied parts of the church, were as surprised as we were when they realized they had opened the wrong door. They immediately backed out again with profuse apologies for having disturbed us, but it was probably more amusing than anything else.

At the same time, though, the incident was a reminder that, in many places of the world, either the police or armed assailants walk into churches all too often and with every intention to do grave harm. Many of the Christians whom New Hope Mission Society supports live in fear of the authorities or of enemies of the faith. It is an important reason to pray for them, support them through mission agencies like NHMS, and to thank God daily for the freedom of religion that we Christians enjoy in this country. It is a privilege we dare not take for granted.



Have you given up your landline?

We are updating our records and have found that we have some "out of service" numbers. If you have eliminated your landline, please update your information with the office by filling out an "Update Your Information" card in the pews, e-mailing office@faithlc.com or calling 320-587-2093.

Thank you for updating your information!

Seniors' Scene

Wow! It's sure been cold lately!

I don't suppose you have heard or said anything like that lately. You have? How do you respond? Maybe something like, "Well, this is Minnesota, you know."



I've got a better response. Find a warm place that doesn't take hundreds of miles to reach. Why not experience the warmth of sharing food and fellowship at **SENIORS' POTLUCK?** There... wasn't that easy? Besides, we have interesting programs and topics.

Take February's program, for instance. You've probably heard it a lot, "The church is declining." The giving is down, the worship attendance is dropping; and many small congregations just can't support a pastor due to membership loss. Even some pastors are turning away from the Word of God. Heard that?? Oh, yes. How do you respond to that?

Certainly there is no one single answer to these issues. Pastor Scott will speak to all this at our next **SENIORS' POTLUCK** meeting, on **Thursday, February 27**, beginning with our delightful and delicious potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**. You won't want to miss this one.

Put Seniors' Potluck on your calendar; decide on what food to bring and share, and try to think of who you might invite to come with you to a "warm" afternoon.

See you there... **Seniors' Potluck.**



Plan to join us for:

Mugs & Muffins

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

Where: Faith Center

Speakers: Pastor Paulus and Gladys Pilgrim

Bring a mug, bring a friend and we'll provide the rest!



Church Rummage Sale

The annual rummage sale is right around the corner and the planning is in full swing. This year the sale will be held April 23-25 and donations will be accepted and organized April 20-23. It takes many hands doing many different things to prepare and run this sale. Please consider how you might be able to help for an hour or two, a day or two, or the whole week. Please contact Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227 to let her know when you would be available and how you can help.

The 2020 Leadership Roster of Faith Lutheran

Congregational Officers

President: Bob Kreie
Secretary: Connie Stromseth

Vice-President: Carl Horton
Treasurer: Kathy Silvernale

Ministry Teams

Church in the World

Church Council Representatives

Penny Stuber
John Olsen

Team Members

Mollie Terlinden
Jeraldine Rohrbach
Jody Roepke
Amy Nisse
Sherry Schuetz
Kent Jacobsen

Congregational Life

Church Council Representatives

Niki Pokornowski
Marlys Miller

Team Members

Bonnie Knorr
Diedra Beilke
Shari Dorival
Patty Pearce

Discipleship

Church Council Representatives

Andrew Weckwerth
Gail Telecky

Team Members

Lynne Lange
Kari Larson
Connie Kurtzweg
Mark Schumann
Lori Swift
Christine Ruppert

Management

Church Council Representatives

Bob Kreie, President
Carl Horton, Vice-President
Connie Stromseth, Secretary
Kathy Silvernale, Treasurer

Team Members

Mark Guggemos
John Dorival

Children, Youth and Family

Church Council Representatives

Dan Moe
Monica Wehler

Team Members

Donna Moe
Lindsay Schantzen
Paige Schmidt
Monica Schiller
Kathy McDonald
Wyatt Reese

Worship

Church Council Representatives

Maria Weikle
Katie Brecht

Team Members

Owen Weikle
Jack Fitzwater
Jaclyn Fitzwater
Patsy Amundson
Bruce Christianson

Nominating Committee

Joy May
Maria Weikle
Carla Horton

Angie or Kevin Elton
Angie Lohrenz
Lisa Ishihara



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 3rd Class Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny & Patti Rutledge)
- 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)
- 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

Gordy Bauer

Marcella Brede

Arlyce Drahos

Beverly Kirchner

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Barb Ryan

Pines

Mayonne Martin

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon

Harriet Wixcey

Woodstone

Betty Garberich

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE PAID
Hutchinson MN
Permit No 5

Put mailing label here



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?**

Would you like to receive your monthly Faith Matters newsletter via e-mail? It saves the church postage and printing costs, and you get to see it in color every month! You can request a change to e-mailed newsletters by sending an e-mail to office@faithlc.com requesting the change.

