

Faith Matters - April 2020

150 THE LIFE OF FAITH Past Present Future 1870-2020

Pastor's Page



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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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A few years ago, there was a popular book called *Love in a Time of Cholera*. It may have been one of those that Oprah Winfrey made famous, but I'm not sure. I haven't read it nor have I seen the movie based on it, but that title started bouncing around in my head the last few days. It occurred to me that, if I were to write a book about this current pandemic, I should call it *Faith in a Time of Coronavirus*.

Part of the book would be about Faith Lutheran, as with many churches right now, suddenly shifting all sorts of ministries that have always been done in person into on-line formats. I am profoundly grateful for the ability of our staff to set up digital options for so much of the church's work. Will, Laura, Kristen, Wendy and Pastor Dave have spent hours on end setting up, preparing and testing various on-line resources—and patiently bringing along those of us who are not quite so proficient in the latest technology. They deserve all the credit I can give them for making sure that ministry and outreach could continue in a time when public gatherings are highly discouraged or even forbidden.

The other part of my imagined book would lift up the unique value of the Christian faith for times of crisis like this. One of our most natural human desires is to be and stay in control of life. That is what makes a crisis like this feel so threatening—so many things are not in our control right now. Can we protect our health? Will our jobs and income continue? Will retirement funds outlast this meltdown? When can we all come out of our caves? Will life ever get back to normal?

The Gospel, however, recognizes that our desire to stay in control is more than just being responsible for ourselves. It lies at the heart of human sin. By nature, we do not trust God to care for us and don't really want God to be in charge of our lives. We do, of course, want God to provide what we need, but at our request and in our control. People today are as susceptible as Adam and Eve were to the serpent's false promise, "You can be like God."

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So now, when so much does seem out of our control, the Gospel steps in to say, "Of course you're not in control. You never really were." But God is in charge—in charge of heaven and earth, of life and death, of health and illness. And most importantly, in the midst of all that, God is for you in Christ Jesus. He claimed you as His own in Holy Baptism and will never renege on that commitment.

In this time when God's will seems hidden in many ways, the Gospel promise never wavers. We can count on it, no matter what else happens, because God's word to you is explicit, clear and entirely in His control. That is why St. Paul could say so confidently, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) That is the ultimate, irreplaceable, invaluable gift of *Faith in a Time of Coronavirus!*

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott



**STUMP
THE
PASTOR**

150th Anniversary Edition

Q: I read that some churches are still holding worship services, proclaiming their confidence that God will protect them from illness. Does closing Faith Lutheran reflect lack of faith in God?

A: That is a question we have asked ourselves, too. We believe, however, that our decision not to hold gatherings here for the time being is a good one for several reasons.

One is that there can be a fine line between trusting God and tempting God. When the devil tempted Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple to prove that he trusted God's angels to swoop down and rescue him, Jesus refused. For us to flout danger as a way to prove our trust in God would be no more faithful.

Secondly, God gives us a vocation to care for our neighbors in love. Many of Faith's members no longer felt safe gathering with others at this time. We have also been told that people can carry this particular virus with out any symptoms, yet still infect others. Even if we all feel perfectly healthy, love for our neighbor obligates us to put their well-being first.

We also are blessed to live in a day when so much ministry can be broadcast or done on-line. It is not the same as being together and we long for the day when the family of Faith can come together again. But Faith's ministry has not stopped just because we are not in the church building. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for all the resources available during this time and how to access them.

In 1527, bubonic plague, often called the Black Death, reached Wittenberg, Germany, where Martin Luther and his family lived. He was asked whether it was faithful to leave town in order to avoid the plague. He responded in an essay called *Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague*, in which he struck a beautiful balance between being responsible about the contagion and fulfilling our calling to love our neighbors. His advice does not sound much different from what health experts are saying today. That is the same balance that Faith Lutheran is trying to strike, to fulfill our vocation of love to all of you by continuing to proclaim God's Word, but making every effort *not* to spread contagion.

Changing the Pattern

I chose the title “Changing the Pattern” for these stewardship notes this year, because it would be helpful and healthful for the offerings Faith receives to be spread out more evenly throughout the year, instead of being weighted so heavily in the last few weeks of the year. Little did I know just how dramatically the pattern of giving was going to change!



With the pandemic forcing us to put our worship services on-line, we can no longer pass the offering plates through the congregation to receive your offerings. Yet, as we strive to do as much ministry as we still can on-line, the church’s expenses will not be much lower than usual. The church has clamped down on any purchases that are not essential, but the bulk of Faith’s annual budget goes to support our staff who are working as hard as ever, just in new ways.

So please continue to worship God with your tithes and offerings, as you are able. You can send gifts by mail, drop them off at the church or make use of Simply Giving to give electronically. There is more information about Simply Giving elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any questions, please call or stop by. The staff is still at work in the church and we promise to stay at least six feet away!

Current Online Bible Studies

- ◆ Thursday nights at 9 p.m. join Pastor Dave for a Bible study on Facebook.
- ◆ Tuesdays at 12 noon, join your pastors as they continue to rotate leading lectionary, now via Facebook.
- ◆ Join the Faith Lutheran Church Ministry Staff for a brief daily devotion Monday—Friday at 9 a.m. on Facebook
- ◆ There are also, a number of weekly online children and youth ministry opportunities on Facebook. If you have not yet been contacted by Laura or Kristen regarding these opportunities, please reach out to them.

**JOIN THE
ONLINE
BIBLE
STUDY**



Holy Week

Pray for Our Suffering Partners in Mission

Our partners in Southern and Northern India, supported through New Hope Mission Society and our Augustana District, report violent attacks on Christians and Muslims. The Hindu-led government is pursuing policies that are bringing death and destruction. Our AD partners in the North report some 300 deaths. Our partners through the Bishara Center report some 60 attacks recently against Christians.

The coronavirus is also giving cause for alarm. Pastor K.K. Alavi and Abdul, his son, both have shared that the state of Kerala where the Bishara Center is located is instituting drastic measures to try to curb this pandemic from causing more suffering and death.

Midweek Lenten services will conclude online broadcasts on April 1.

But, never fear, we will still be here!

Lent is followed by **Holy Week** which is filled with a number of special services.

If we are still not able to gather as a faith community, we plan to find a way to broadcast services throughout our walk through Holy Week. Mark these days to join us:

- ◆ Palm Sunday, April 5
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 9
- ◆ Good Friday, April 10
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 12

How can I continue to support Faith Lutheran Church at this time?

Are you feeling bad because you missed church and couldn't give your offering? Did you stay home because you weren't feeling well and want to know how to contribute to the church? Or are you just tired of writing checks every week? Never fear, Simply Giving is here! Simply Giving lets you easily set up one-time or recurring payments that can be done via your bank account (preferred) or a credit/debit card. It's simple and easy! Just go to Faith Lutheran's website at faithlc.com, select "Give" at the top of the page and follow the prompts. You can also get a form at the church office to sign up off-line if you choose. (See images below.)

Please feel free to stop by the office during normal business hours to give your offerings or you can send them through the mail. Thank you for continuing to support Faith Lutheran Church through this unprecedented time in the history of our country.



To have your offerings transferred electronically recurring gift to Faith Lutheran online:



Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main St. S. Hutchinson, MN 55350 | 320-587-2093

A screenshot of the "Online Donation" form. The form is titled "Online Donation" and has a red header. It contains several sections: "Donations" with a message "If you've already created a profile, please 'Log In' on the right, otherwise continue.", a table for selecting funds (Upon This Rock Fund, REPAIR & IMPROVEMENT, GENERAL OPERATING), a "Total" of \$0.00, "Donation Frequency" (Choose One), and "Donation Start Date" (03/18/20). There is a "Continue" button. On the right, there is a "Log In" section with fields for "Email Address" and "Password", a "Log In" button, and a link "Forgot your Email Address or Password?". Below that is a "Create Your Online Profile" section with a "Create Profile" button. A red arrow points to the "Donations" section.

A Word from Kristen Matthews, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

As we are nearing the end of our Lenten season and looking to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, I want to encourage you. This time of year is hard. As I have been interacting with my students, I hear the pressure they are facing, the fear that they have in regards to change, or just the everyday struggles of being a teenager. In a recent study that I did with the high school students, we talked about how we have a God who understands all that we go through fully because He felt it too (Hebrews 4:14-16). I find that to be encouraging. He knows everything that we have gone through, He knows the fears that we have, and He knows what the future holds. Take heart, because He knows that the victory is found in Him. So whether you are enduring hardship in work or school, you're stressed out about current events, or you're fighting to make it through each day: know that the King of the Universe understands and continues to fight for you because all of His promises are faithful each and every day. The Resurrection is the reminder of the joy that we find in Jesus Christ.

Please note that Confirmation and FLYouth are continuing to meet online. If you have not yet been connected to these groups please contact Kristen at 320-587-2093 or Kristenm@faithlc.com.



Parents' Corner by Laura Weikle, Director of Children and Family Ministry

I was reminded of a conversation I had with a mother a couple years back. She shared the concern she and her husband had with internet safety. They set up a firewall and later found out that it did not protect against everything inappropriate the internet had to hold. Technology can make life easier, but it can make parenting harder, too.

The church cares about you, your children, family and technology safety. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to think about what kind of steps you are taking to implement digital safety. As you do so, there is one critical thing to remember and the writers of the *Faith and Safety: Technology Safety Through the Eyes of Faith* website said it best "No technology, no piece of software, no parental control is ever a substitute for active, involved, and loving parenting. The most effective Internet safety tool is you! In fact, parents are considered the biggest influence on what kids see as appropriate and inappropriate 'digital behavior'."

Below are ways to encourage digital safety in your home:

1. Use anti-virus, firewall, and anti-malware software.
2. Put all computers in a public space.
3. Teach Internet safety.
4. Discuss what your children see online.
5. Review where your kids go online.

The best way to promote healthy technology use is you! Take a moment to ask yourself: Do you use your phone at the table? Do you text while talking to others? Do you instantly pull out your phone when a new message arrives? Do you text while driving? Do you use computers or tablets in public areas of the house or do you habitually bring them into your bedroom behind closed doors? Now model the behavior you yourself expect from your children.





Seniors' Scene

Happy Easter everyone! I thought this April issue, with Easter Sunday on April 12, would be a good time to share the joyous wishes of Jesus risen FOR YOU and me. We will live because He lives. What a glorious message; a true message. Every time we hear another person say "Happy Easter," and every time we give another person the same greeting we are sharing one of the greatest wishes ever. We are declaring our faith in Jesus' rising from death, to promise the same for us, and for all who trust Him. Think of it...our death is NOT our end. We face death's reality with hope and positive expectation, for ourselves and for our loved ones. Pay no attention to those weak-in-faith persons who question whether we will actually rise to new life from our graves. Jesus says we will. That's enough for us to bank on it.

Rather than spending our energies on worrying about death, we are free to serve our risen Lord Jesus by loving and helping people in need, in His Name.

One way we serve here in Hutchinson is through supporting Common Cup who serves people in need. However, Common Cup is a fairly recent agency in the life of our congregation. As we look at 150 years of history of Faith Lutheran Church

we could wonder how many members of this congregation have poured themselves out in prayer and giving to serve one another, and how many individuals and families have felt the love of Christ through simple deeds of love in the Name of Jesus.

We hope to be able to take another look at our congregation's 150 years of life and service at **SENIORS' POTLUCK on Thursday, April 30**, beginning at 12:00 noon.

When you come, expect three things:

1. Pastor Scott will share more glimpses of the 150 years of history of our congregation's history. Scott has been busy researching our interesting Danish Background.
2. Come expecting to taste "Abelskiver," a special Danish treat. We will have them available for anyone wanting to see what they're like, or who already know what they're like and are hankering for another taste.
3. Bring a Danish dish of some kind for the potluck dinner. OR perhaps something German or Swedish or Norwegian. OR, just bring your usual selection for delectable eating.

See hope we will see you at **SENIORS POTLUCK!**

Annual Rummage Sale *POSTPONED until a later date!*



Pictorial Directory Time

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Faith Lutheran Church, we are working with Lifetouch to create a new pictorial directory. The more families that participate the more accurate this time in our history will be reflected. Dates will potentially begin the end of May and we hope the registration website will be available mid-April. Please watch announcements for updates.



Tentative at this time! **Save the date**

to be photographed for the new Faith Lutheran Church directory

Photography begins May 26.
Watch the bulletin for more information!

Lifetouch

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH
Past Present Future
1870-2020



Dedication of Main Street Church

*From the front page of the March 24, 1939
copy of the Hutchinson Leader.*

The new \$25,000 Main Street Lutheran Church will be dedicated at services next Sunday afternoon (March 26, 1939), beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The church presents an imposing sight in its Main Street setting. It is built of ornamental brick, with a high steeple and tower, and ornamental stone decorating the front. The main entrance is from the west, and there is also a side entrance from the south.

The church proper is 40 feet wide by 90 feet long, with a ceiling of more than thirty feet ... the main auditorium, is finished in oak and presents a striking appearance. It seats about 350, while the balcony seats about 100 more. The large beams crisscrossing each other are of fir and add greatly to the inside appearance. The altar extends across the front of the church, with the choir loft, seating 32, to the left while the pulpit is on the right.

Discussion of the new church was begun last summer, and the cornerstone was laid on October 16, 1938.

First and Foremost We are Here for You!

During this time of restricted gathering, the church office will remain open and the staff will continue to be available to you. Please call, e-mail or stop in.

At this time we are not physically gathering for worship or any other activity at the church. We will continue to broadcast services on KDUZ and Channel 10. We will also be live streaming on Facebook the 10:10 service on Sunday and the Wednesday night Lenten services.

Faith Apparel

The Faith apparel has arrived at the church. Feel free to stop by during regular business hours and a staff member will be happy to help you find your items. You will have something new to wear when you go out for a walk!



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Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

Contact your Faith
Lutheran Church Staff
with any questions at
320-587-2093.
The office will be staffed
Monday - Friday from
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Getting to Know the Staff

By Marsha Schmit

Recently, I asked our Pastoral Intern, Jeff Amundson, to share a little about himself. His answers were so well written I decided to share them as is!

Tell me a little about yourself and your family, your prior jobs, etc...

My first ten years, I was an Air Force brat, traveling a lot. I lived in Panama and was an evacuee during the riots in 1964, leaving with nothing but Mom and a teddy bear given to me as we left.

In 1972, my family moved to Hutchinson and joined Faith Lutheran Church. Except for five years spent in St. Louis when I was first married (1982 - 1987), I have been a member of FLC. I married my high school sweetheart in 1982, and she (Patsy) still puts up with me today. We have two wonderful children, Becky and Tony. We are also blessed with two grandchildren.

I have an non-destructive testing degree and worked seven weeks in Monticello's nuclear plant during an outage. After that, I spent five years working on fighter jets in St. Louis. I worked for twelve years at HTI where I started my BSME degree and was a Quality Manager. I moved to Minnesota Rubber in 1999, finished my engineering degree in 2001 and was there for fifteen years, ending as Plant Manager.

Current job and what made you decide to pursue your Masters in Theology? How was it going back to school and your experience with ILT?

I moved to a Christian-based company in 2015, IRD Glass in Litchfield, as their Operations Manager. I continue there today in a less intense role, working from home as a Quality and Systems Analyst. During my life, I have had many health crises and learned, finally, that God is in charge! These experiences led me to believe that God has a different purpose for me, a different calling than what I had but that the training and experiences I have received would be important to this new calling. I started at ILT in Spring 2016 and took one or two classes a semester. For me, the electronic style of learning was not hard to learn but did require a little organization and individual dedication. This is not unlike any normal college student, except most of my friend support came from my family and my FLC family. I have and will always encourage people to continue to learn, and ILT is a great place to pursue that goal. (I do recommend a good eye exam, though, as you will be reading a great deal.)

What are you most excited about with your internship at Faith?

I am most excited about gaining experience and working with a great team; learning and fine tuning this call from God. His path for me seems to be getting clearer and clearer, and indeed uses all that he has given me, even the bad stuff.

Most anxious about?

Balancing my different vocations, husband, father, grandfather, friend, co-worker, IRD employee and faith staff member, but most importantly, God's calling to me to proclaim and share His Word with those in need. May I not fall on my face! These are all callings which God has charged me with being a good steward.

Long term plans?

Easter....Seriously, God continues to make a path for me, and I hope that it continues to include those around me today. I have long felt that there is great opportunity in outreach ministry, even here in central Minnesota. This would not only include my experiences with missions (Paul) and pastoral care (Paulus and Marsha), but my support with other churches like St. Matthew's in Fernando where I periodically do pulpit supply.

Favorite Bible Verse

Same as my mother, Psalm 23. Its words continue to take on richer and deeper meanings to me.

Anything else you would like to add...

God is real; welcome Him into your life; you will never regret it.....

It's so nice to have you working with us this year Jeff! We appreciate your many gifts!





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
- Barb Ryan

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

- Patricia Lambert
- Bernice Vorbeck
- Lucille Wehking

Harmony River

- Margaret Alrick
- 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

Pines

- Mayonne Martin

Prairie Senior Cottages

- Pat Fimon

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:

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.

