

Faith Matters - May 2020

150 THE LIFE OF FAITH Past Present Future 1870-2020

Pastor's Page

Already, Not Yet, and Covid-19

Hi Faith Family! I miss you!

What a strange five years March and April have been, huh!?

Here at Faith Lutheran - you know, that building on Main Street where you used to be able to come to on Sunday, Wednesday and many other days in between - we have been managing much the same as you have been: we're making the best of it! Some of the initiatives we have been developing in response to this pandemic, and the social-distancing that has come with it, have been interesting, even fun and invigorating. It's been crazy converting the sanctuary into a production studio. It's been challenging to figure out how to use two sound systems, four web cameras, four TV cameras, two computer monitors, 3 computer programs, and a leopard-pattern umbrella to create quality online content. It's been a challenge coming up with ways to provide pastoral care when pastoral care means staying away. It's been a challenge being the hands and feet of Christ when hands and feet carry germs! It's been a challenge, but one we've enjoyed tackling!

That said, I miss the way it used to be.

I miss crowded worship spaces, loud confirmation students, excited Sunday School kids, Spit 'n Shine crews, front desk volunteers, FLY 4-Square, quilting ladies, and even Roger Fimon's coffee visits ;)

So, when it gets right down to it, I love what we're doing, and I can't wait until we're not doing it anymore!

Which, naturally, gets me thinking theologically (it's either that or thinking about the Vikings). This whole ordeal reminds me of those classic Lutheran buzzwords: already, not yet.

Let me explain.

During this time of pandemic, we are still gathering as a church. We still enjoy "seeing" each other, albeit online. I don't see you, but I see your names. I read your greetings and comments. I am excited knowing that you are worshipping along with me, just from the comfort of your living room! We're together in part, right? We're together in spirit.

We're already together, but not yet together!

Someday - hopefully soon, hopefully this month - we will actually gather together. We'll see one another face-to-face, break bread together, sing together, give handshakes and fist bumps and hugs! It will be a glorious day.

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

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In a small way, this is like the already/not yet dynamic of the Christian life. We're already new, already whole, already one with Christ. We already enjoy the benefits of being God's child. We already walk in the light.

But, like the online stream, we don't enjoy all the benefits fully. Not yet! There are still technical glitches, still social distancing limitations. Things like sin, brokenness, death still remain in this world. We are already enjoying salvation, we do not yet enjoy salvation- not fully.

So we wait - with hope! We wait until we can be together again as a Faith Family, and we wait until we are united with that great family of faith on the Last Day.

In both cases, it will be well worth the wait!

See you in church, or online!
Pastor Dave



**STUMP
THE
PASTOR**

150th Anniversary Edition

(The pandemic has put a serious crimp in Faith Lutheran's anniversary year, but this column is one small way to continue the celebration.)

Q: I saw that Peace Lutheran was founded five years earlier than Faith. Why did Faith's founders start a new Lutheran church rather than join the one that was already here?

A: There were several reasons why a common Lutheran heritage was not sufficient for Faith's founding members to join Peace (then called Friedens) Lutheran. The biggest one by far was language. Faith's founders spoke Danish, while Peace's spoke German. Although America is an English-speaking country and immigrants quickly had to learn enough of it to survive, most of them were not fluent in English and treasured their native languages. It often took a generation or more for English to displace them. Faith Lutheran used Danish exclusively for its first 53 years, before the first English service began in 1923!

There was also a sense among immigrants that their native language was essential for worship to be meaningful. As English began creeping into the churches, many pastors complained that they simply could not proclaim the Gospel in English in the same way they could in their mother tongues. When people claimed that Danish or German or Norwegian was the language spoken in heaven, they were only half joking.

Beyond fluency, however, ethnic language and culture provided a powerful tie back to the home countries the immigrants had left and preserved a sense of their identity in this new country. In the case of Faith's founders, it took many years for them to think of themselves as Danish Americans rather than Danes in America. Church was a place where the atmosphere of the old country could be preserved even longer than it was in many homes.

Finally, despite their shared heritage, Lutheran churches in and among the various European countries had significant theological disagreements and cultural differences. A common tie back to Martin Luther was not enough to unify them. While the language barrier has long since disappeared among Lutherans in America, theological and church differences prevent us from all belonging to the same church body to this day.



Seniors' Scene

My assignment: call senior members 70 years old and up. Other staff people and member volunteers are calling members, too. Since we cannot make our usual visits, we are making what we refer to as "televisits." As of today, I have personally made over 70 calls. There are a lot of people age 70 and over. We want to know they are doing OK during this stay at home period. There is always the possibility of stress and boredom, especially if the isolation lasts for a long time.

People are expressing their gratitude in ways I had not expected. Some said, "Thanks for not forgetting me." Others said, "This is so nice."

I am encouraged by how resourceful our Seniors are. Some say this is nothing new. They have had long recovery periods with surgeries. Some have lost spouses and are already alone at home. The biggest problem is the loss of mobility. We are not completely free to shop and eat out. Some usually meet with friends for coffee at their chosen eatery. Not now. It isn't easy to give up a routine social event. It may not be traumatic, but one feels deprived when things we take for granted are wrenched from us.

Resourcefulness is demonstrated when I ask, "What are you doing to pass the time?" Here are the big ones: watching old westerns, reading, sewing (masks, etc.), puzzles (crossword and jig saw), taking walks and drives, visiting with loved ones on

telephone and internet. The prize? The most often mentioned activity is cleaning...floors, drawers, windows, freezers, refrigerators and garages. "Things we should have done before but had no time," many said.

Several talked about quiet time. Inspirational reading, Bible reading, more quiet time to meditate. One said she finished reading the whole Bible. Along with that is the question I heard frequently, "I wonder what God is telling us about our relationship to Him through all this?" Many, perhaps without fully realizing how they are being propelled to action by their faith in Jesus, referenced the fact that they were calling people they knew could well be lonely. Others said they are making "grocery runs" for people who can't get to the store, even for drive-by shopping.

I have learned. I have been taught lessons of faith and obedience to our Lord Jesus. I have been inspired by seeing you put your faith in Jesus into action. Thank you, dear people! I think of Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, my brethren, you have done it to Me."

Please, keep praying. Keep doing, in the Name of Jesus. Ask Jesus to give His healing powers to our present need. He turned no one down, who came to him even with faltering faith, and asked him to heal someone's illness. He will hear us. He can heal our nation and world from Covid-19. Still more, He will teach us His will for the "post-coronavirus" era; and give us faith to follow Him.

God bless you all in these times.

Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

The end is in sight! After this month's payment, the mortgage balance on Faith's building addition will be **under \$350,000!** That means nearly 90% of the loan is paid, but we need your help to knock off that last 10%. Many of you have completed your pledges to the Upon This Rock capital campaign. **Thank you for those gifts!** As a result of that, though, monthly giving to Upon This Rock has been dropping and eventually the church will exhaust its reserve funds that are used to cover the gap between the amount of gifts received and the monthly payment.



St. Paul's words in Philippians 2:13-14 seem fitting here, even though he was not talking about mortgage payments: "Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Let's strain forward to the goal of finishing the remarkable effort to pay off this mortgage. Please continue to support Upon This Rock as you are blessed to do so, even and especially if you have completed your original pledge.

Changing the Pattern

When the Minnesota governor issued the stay-at-home order in March, one grave concern among many the church had was whether giving to the congregation would hold up when we could not gather here for worship. For a short time at the very beginning of the lock-down, offerings to the church dropped sharply and we worried, in particular, if we would be able to continue to pay the staff.

Since then, however, the members and friends of Faith have responded with amazing generosity. As

of this writing, offering income is actually up a bit from last year at this time! **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** As we have noted during our worship broadcasts, your offerings are our only source of income and we are grateful to God and to all of you for continuing to provide so faithfully for this ministry.



How Is This for A Government Response to COVID-19?

From Pastor Paul

The Government of Ethiopia (the current Prime Minister is an Evangelical Christian) “declared one month fasting and prayer for all denominations nationally.” This is reported by the head of the elders of the Tabor Congregation, our Augustana District partner. He also reported that the four national television networks are allowed to broadcast prayers, worship services, and preaching. As a result, the Evangelical Council of Churches is broadcasting throughout each day messages of the “Kingdom of our Lord. Praise the Lord.”

There also, worship services are not allowed to be held. At Tabor’s nearly 60 outreach centers across the country of Ethiopia, even these small groups of Christians are not permitted to meet. The meager salaries of their evangelists are not easily sent to them. A 9,000 member congregation is facing its own challenges to provide the financial support for its many ministries.

We will do well to pray earnestly for them. Ashenafi, the head of Tabor’s Board of Elders, reports there are presently only 108 cases of the virus in the country. If it does come and spreads, they with other countries will be hard pressed to give the medical care needed. We may have shortages. They have very few ventilators available and nowhere near the infrastructure to deliver acute care for masses of patients.



News from the New Hope Mission Society

India has not been spared from the corona virus and it is having a harmful effect especially on the very poor of that country. The Bishara mission donated \$2,600.00 at the government’s request to aid in relief efforts. Although the pandemic has limited some of Bishara’s outreach efforts, it has opened other doors for witness. Faith Lutheran Church is the largest supporter of New Hope Mission Society and the Bishara mission is the central focus of NHMS’s work. Keep the Bishara community and all the people of India in your prayers.

CHILDREN & FAMILY

Parents' Corner

Building an Intentional Family Life

Since the stay-at-home order due to COVID-19, I am grateful to hear how this has become a blessing to families. A time to be more intentional.

Ever since your first child was born, you had a desire to be intentional with him or her, but the intention was drowned in waves of school, games, appointments and other obligations. Parents become like ships passing in the night. You still desire closeness with your spouse and intentionality with your children. Your children ache for an intentional life too, because it speaks unconditional love, purpose and worthiness.

An intentional family life can happen if you pursue it. Here's how:

1. **Be present and engaged.** I know that you are 100% present at work and end the day exhausted. But when you are reminded what is most important you can be filled up when you pour out.
2. **Quality one-on-one time with your children.** Your children are unique. Thus it is vital for their growth to have individual time with them.
3. **Define your beliefs.** Your children need guidance, boundaries and grace. Share with your children what you believe as a Christian, parent and person.
4. **Simplify.** We often feel like we need to keep our children entertained, but what they actually need sometimes is a simplified life. Free play! Time for them to enjoy life and be creative!
5. **Reflect and deal with your past.** Ask yourself, what are the same demons you are dealing with that are getting in the way of being fully present with your family. Gently and purposefully, reflect on your past (people and events). Then start to forgive. This can begin to create a grace-filled home.
6. **Do it for others, not your ego.** Think about who this will affect if you develop an intentional family life. Your children, their children, and their children!

Questions? Comments? Prayer requests?
Contact Laura Weikle at lauraw@faithlc.com or 320.587.2093

Facebook Weekly Schedule

Sundays

Sunday School
lessons posted for
Pre-K—6th Grade

Mondays

56ers Devotional

Tuesdays

B23 Lesson
Puppet Skit

Wednesdays

Sprouts Lesson
56ers Lesson

Thursdays

Faith Rocks Song
56ers Activity

Fridays

Family Devotional
or Activity



Be sure to join
our Facebook
groups!

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

FLY

In the last few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about my seniors, the students that I have been able to walk alongside in my ministry, my leaders, the most deserving graduates. They have persevered through their schooling, made an impact in their schools, homes, and churches, and led underclassmen to follow their example. My heart absolutely breaks thinking about the changes that have been happening in their lives. This virus sucks. Everything being canceled or closed sucks.

There has been a trend on Facebook recently to share Senior Pictures of prior years. The thing I have noticed is that, though amusing, there has been backlash coming from current Seniors complaining about the insensitivity of posting those pictures. To these seniors, they are losing their “lasts” - prom, graduation, and so much more. I think about my senior year and how much I loved the tail end of that year and then I get sad because those students won't experience that.

Here is what I am thinking. Our high school seniors deserve so much more. Now is the time to reach out to our seniors and tell them the impact that they have had on you. It is the time to affirm, encourage, and pray for them! This could be the time that we appreciate those seniors and tell them how wildly loved they are and realize the community that stands behind them. Today, I encourage you to reach out to these students. They are so sad and frustrated because of this time, but you can be a light to them. I hope you choose to join me in this.



Other News

Laura Weikle and I are looking to bring a few interns to walk alongside us this summer. We are excited for this opportunity! If you know someone that would be awesome for this, please direct them to me or Laura by e-mail and we would love to talk with them. E-mails can be sent to kristenm@faithlc.com or lauraw@faithlc.com

Hello, Faith Lutheran!

As you are probably wondering, what have I been up to now that choir has ceased indefinitely and much of the "special music" has been up to our worship leaders? Well, I have been doing most of the stream set up and recording for all our services. It has been incredibly challenging pulling this all together in such a short amount of time, but I think the pay off has been tremendous! Things like integrating lyric slides and different camera angles take up most of my time during the week. Even the slide designs that you see before the service begins is something I take the time to do every week before the services. I'm thankful that the slide software we recently decided to purchase has made it very easy to come up with some cool designs. Running the live streams is also why I'm not seen in the streams themselves. With that said, a lot of you have been asking how you can help with the live streams. There are several answers to this, but the first one is your offerings each week. A lot of what we do has a cost to it, and we wouldn't be able to do it without your support. Second is equipment donations! Things like webcams or camcorders with a USB port can all be used in our stream! Right now, we have to scavenge Faith staff's webcams every Sunday so that we have cameras to use for our church services. Obviously, if you are using your webcams to talk to family or work, then we couldn't possibly take something integral to your life right now. But, if you have a webcam lying around that you aren't using, we would love to borrow it for as long as this social distance era goes on.

You can email me at willh@faithlc.com if you have any more questions, and I hope you all are staying sane and healthy in these uncertain times.

Blessings,
Will





On September 23, 1984, the congregation voted to remodel and upgrade its building to make it more accessible and energy efficient. Additional parking was made available with the purchase of all the land on Hassan Street from 3rd to 4th Avenues. A new major entrance was added to the east side of the church with an elevator. An area over the kitchen was created to be used as a chapel, with the capacity for three individual rooms. Soundproof dividers were installed in the south basement to create twelve classrooms and new restrooms were added. Air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary. The building was tuck-pointed and re-roofed. The existing west entrance to the parish building was closed off in order to provide a new secretary's office, while a double-glass enclosed door was added to the Main Street entrance. Total cost of the project was \$450,000. Groundbreaking took place on March 12, 1985, with dedication on November 10, 1985.

Anniversary Celebration

October 9-11, 2020

The 150th Anniversary planning committee is still working on our fall celebration. Some of the earlier events and activities have had to be postponed, but we are still excited to celebrate Faith's 150th Anniversary.

The committee is asking for your help on a couple of items:

- 1) If you plant gourds in your garden, plant enough to donate some for our fall celebration.
- 2) If you have pretty weeds and plants that are easily foraged in spring and fall, watch for times to bring some of these items in for decoration.
- 3) Do you have any clear glass bud vases that we could borrow?
- 4) Do you have metallic gold items: ribbon, floral picks, other decorative items in metallic gold (not Hutch yellow/gold) will compliment the decorations for the big event.

Hand Stamped 150th Commemorative Necklace or Ornament

If you would be interested in purchasing a hand stamped anniversary necklace or ornament, please send your name, phone number and payment (\$17 each) to Geri Johnson.

You can contact Geri at 320-587-6733 or 583-9490 or e-mail her at grjohn45@gmail.com for more information or with any questions.

Payment (cash or check) can be sent to Geri Johnson 558 Juergens Rd. Hutchinson, MN 55350



A NOTE FROM MARSHA

Who would have known we would be living in such strange times? Holy Week and Easter were different for all of us, but especially for us on the Faith staff. We were here, at church, in an otherwise empty sanctuary, with a camera to look into instead of your eyes. Songs were sung without your voices surrounding us, the scripture was read, the sermon was preached, but YOU were missed! Thank God for technology (and people who know how to use it) that could bring worship to you in your homes for such a time as this. Despite all of this, God was **here**... God was **there** in your homes and with your families... God **continues** to reign in this world and **always** will! We wait for the day when we can all be together again, but, in the meantime, know that we are here for you, we are thinking of and praying for you, and we miss you. We have been so blessed by your kind words, encouragement and continued financial gifts to Faith. God is SO good!

As far as ministry goes, the pastors and I continue to meet weekly to update each other on the Faith family. We are making phone calls daily to reach out to people to see how they are doing, offering prayer and scripture. We have delivered hymnals and continue to do so to those requesting one, from a collection that was donated to Faith when a church closed its doors. For those who listen on the radio, these hymnals have been such a gift. In addition to our calls, I have been organizing calls to others by people who have offered. Many, many calls and connections have been made!

I wanted to share that I have also been blessed by my confirmation small group of seven - eighth grade girls. Kristen encouraged the small group leaders to reach out to the kids in our groups, and I offered to do a Bible Study via Zoom with my girls. They jumped at the chance, and we have been meeting weekly to learn, share, and connect. Again, God is SO good!

Until we can be together again...

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 live stream on Facebook the 10:10 service on Sundays.

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!



RADIO BROADCAST
KDUZ 1260 AM
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.

TV BROADCAST
CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
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Contact your Faith
Lutheran Church Staff
with any questions at
320-587-2093.
The office will be staffed
Monday - Friday from
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



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:

Bryant Homes - Maple Plaine

Ardell Novotny

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
 Bernice Vorbeck
 Lucille Wehking

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick
 Betty Jensen
 Ruth Larson
 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:

- F**OLLOW JESUS
- A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
- I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE
- T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
- H**ELP 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.

An icon of a yellow envelope with a white newspaper sticking out. The newspaper has the word "NEWS" written in bold red letters on its top section.