

*Faith Matters - June 2020*

**150**  
**THE LIFE OF FAITH**  
*Past Present Future*  
 1870-2020

**Pastor's Page**

Any of you who remember the late, great radio broadcaster Paul Harvey may also recall his radio program called "The Rest of the Story." In short segments, Harvey would fill in the surprising backstory to some otherwise well-known person or event. He would then end each episode by declaring, "And now you know...the *rest* of the story."

In the next few weeks, the Church calendar includes three events or festivals in quick succession that are central to the Christian Gospel, but tend to get overlooked or at least pale in comparison to the attention given to Christmas and Easter. Together, they feel a bit like "the *rest* of the story" that needs to be filled in if people are to get the whole picture of Christianity.

The first is Ascension Day, which marks Christ's return to the heavenly glory which he "emptied" out (Philippians 2:7) in order to take on human flesh in the Incarnation. The *Acts of the Apostles* reports that Jesus' ascended to heaven forty days after Easter, which means Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday. That helps explain why it is the least recognized of these festivals.

It was Jesus' ascension, however, which made it possible for him to be present with all His people in every place and time. In the ascension, Jesus took his resurrected human flesh into the Godhead, so that we "do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus' ascension also paved the way for the sending of the Holy Spirit. That occurred on the Day of Pentecost, which comes ten days after Ascension Day. (The penta- prefix refers to the number five, because the Jewish festival of Pentecost came 50 days after Passover. Likewise, the Christian celebration of Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter.)

Pentecost is the best known of these three festivals, but still gets far less notice than Christmas or Easter. It was not the first time the Holy Spirit worked on earth. The Old Testament refers often to God's Spirit, starting

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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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in Genesis 1. But the Day of Pentecost was when Christ fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit on his followers, thereby equipping them with understanding of the Gospel and the gifts necessary to proclaim it. It marks the birth of the Christian Church and is the basis of God's promise to send the Holy Spirit on you and me, first in baptism and ever after through the means of grace.

The last festival, Holy Trinity, comes just a week after Pentecost. It is not based on a single Biblical event, but rather on the Bible's revelation of God as Triune—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God, not three. It took the Christian Church more than 300 years to hammer out the doctrine of the Trinity, but Holy Trinity Sunday reminds us that the doctrine is not an invention of the Church. Rather, it is the only way that the Church was able to make sense of the whole witness of the Bible: that there is only one God, that Jesus' claim that "the Father and I are one" was verified by the resurrection, and that the coming of the Holy Spirit was necessary in order to empower the Church's mission. God's Triune nature is beyond human comprehension, but nothing less unites the Bible's testimony to God.

By the time you read this, these festivals may all be over for another year. Still, I hope that, even in looking back, we might have a renewed appreciation for the divine wonder, majesty and grace of God that is fully and finally revealed in the *rest* of the Christian story.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott



*Q: Does God know who goes to heaven before people are born?*

A: I would guess that lots of people are curious about this question asked by a confirmation student, but it is the kind of question that Lutheran theology is reluctant to address. Why?

One reason is that it tries to peer inside the mind of God, to seek knowledge about their Creator that creatures are not able to discover or comprehend. Another reason is that, beyond curiosity, the question hints that faith in God's promises is not quite enough, that knowing the criteria for God's judgments would make us more certain about them and perhaps able to control them.

Mostly, though, the problem with questions like this one is that they pose an abstract situation. "They" or the "people" under discussion are not known, have no names, no individual identity. But God's promises are not delivered in the abstract. They are spoken personally, to individual people. In Holy Baptism, the promise of salvation is proclaimed by name—the Christian name that belongs only to the person baptized. In the absolution, the forgiveness of *your* sin is granted *for you*, not just in general or according to some larger principle. Only when the promise is stated directly from God to a specific person does it cease to be an abstract idea and become instead a promise that creates faith.

So, rather than entertain questions about God's divine knowledge or about the fate of people in general, Lutheran theology focuses on the proclamation of the Gospel. Individual people need to hear God's promises addressed specifically as being *for you*. That's why all Christians are authorized by their baptism and equipped by the Holy Spirit to witness to others. For the Gospel to do its saving work, it cannot be any general notion about "they" or "people," but it must break into some person's life as the *for you* that delivers and does what it says.



## Seniors' Scene

*Pastor Paulus*

Many things have been disturbed and uprooted by the presence of the coronavirus. Being unable to meet together has affected our usual, annual way of doing things. Usually Bless The Years is on the first Sunday in May. May is the month of national recognition of our seniors, their needs, and their contributions to our country and society. With our need to bring worship services by streaming on Facebook, and our changing of Bless The Years Sunday to May 17, we didn't print our annual "Spotlight on Seniors" until this month. If you read about our two Alices, you will conclude these were worth waiting for. Both Alice's contribute to our Faith Lutheran Family in unique ways. We thank

God for them, and for their faith and witness to our Lord and Savior, Jesus. We wish them God's continued blessing for all the ways they need Him and trust Him. We also thank Ginny Brodd for interviewing them and writing their brief stories of faith.

Since there are no potluck meetings, we must say goodbye until next fall. We truly hope to line up a new season of meetings and programs by then. We all miss being together sharing food, fellowship and learning.

God bless you all until we are back together again.



## Changing the Pattern

One of many remarkable blessings that Faith Lutheran has received while the stay-at-home order has disrupted church life is astoundingly generous offerings. Apart from a brief dip at the very beginning of the lockdown, your giving has been so faithful that our offerings are actually *ahead* of this time last year. **Thank you** so much for continuing to support the ministry God is doing through Faith!

In March, the Upon This Rock capital campaign also received nearly enough in gifts to cover the monthly mortgage payment. We know that many of you have already completed your

original pledge to UTR, so that total is also a testament to your generosity and faithful support of the work of our congregation.

We know that some members of the Faith family have had their income disrupted during this time, so we are especially grateful for such an amazing outpouring of support. If you or someone you know is facing financial problems because of the shutdown, please let us know to see how we might help.



### **Our First Spotlitged Senior is Alice Fransen.**

A telephone call instead of a friendly conversation over a cup of coffee was the way Alice and I conducted our interview. But even over the phone I was able to visualize the sparkle in her eyes and the smile on her face.

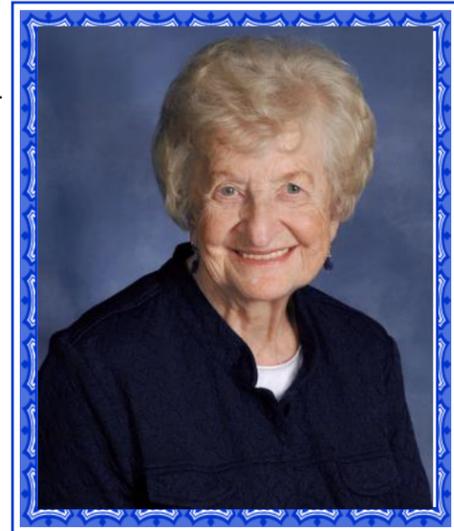
We started our visit with the general question of birth and early years. Alice was born at home during a March blizzard. She was one of seven children. Her early memories of church recall the pastor was very strict, the service was solemn and the sanctuary was a very quiet place. Families were split for church services, men on one side, and women and children on the other. From her earliest memories of church, she can't ever remember not believing in God. That was part of her upbringing and has continued to be a huge part of her life.

Alice told me her worst trial was when she lost her husband. With three children to raise and suddenly being alone, she relied on God's support, her extended family and her church family to get her through the toughest times. She noted she feels the same about her current situation and how God, her extended family and her family of Faith are there for her.

Alice lived on the family farm near Buffalo Lake for eight years after her husband died and then she moved to Lake Marion. It was a long drive back to Zion Lutheran so Alice began visiting churches in Hutchinson. She knew she found her new church home when she stepped into the sanctuary at Faith and saw the window over the altar. It was a "Light in my Life" and she stated it still is that light 25 years later.

I could picture Alice's smile when I asked her about thoughts of our church today. "Pastor Scott has the ability to teach anything and make it interesting, and Pastor Dave makes every sermon relevant to anyone listening. They are quite the team." Alice also especially enjoys the Faith Group Bible Studies that are available to participate in spring and fall. She misses volunteering at the front desk every Monday, greeting anyone coming in with her warm smile and a friendly hello.

Alice now faces another trial in her life. She has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and she knows there is no magic cure for her. When I asked her if there was anything she would like to share with her Faith family, she replied, "The doctors have told me it will be painful, but I know when my life ends it will be wonderful, because I know where I am going!" In this time of uncertainty, one thing is certain in Alice's life. She knows where she is going and it will be wonderful!



### **Our Second Spotlitged Senior is Alice Poshek.**

This interview was different from the previous "Focus on Senior" interviews I've been involved with. First, Alice was born one year before me so it's hard for me to imagine her as a senior and secondly, Alice was born into, baptized, confirmed and married in the Catholic Church. Alice was one of 14 children and she said her parents were "good practicing Catholics." She grew up attending weekly mass and still refers to herself as a "recovering Catholic."

Alice recalls when she was three being involved in a home accident that left her severely burned. She recovered in the St. Cloud hospital and remembers being told it was a miracle she survived. Miracles and angels have been a big part of Alice's life from early on.

*Continued on page 5*

**Second Spotlighted Senior** *Continued from page 4*

She remembers a chance encounter in the early 1990's with Pastor Skeie. He was visiting a parishioner at the local hospital and happened upon Alice, looking sad and alone. He sat with her and invited her to come to Faith on Sunday to hear the message. She took him up on that invite and came to the 8:00 service the following Sunday. It was at that service she met, in her words, a set of angels, Dorothy Desens, Muriel Dobratz, and Shirley Bowen. All three ladies welcomed her and made her feel like she belonged right here at Faith. Next was an invite to attend ladies Bible study and the family feeling just continued growing.

Alice fondly remembers Ken and Margaret Fredrickson as her mentors and eventually as her sponsors when she decided to become a Lutheran and join Faith Lutheran. Her decision to change churches seemed the right thing to do because of the "angels" she had met and the love she felt at this church that she still feels here. She says she feels a need to come to Sunday services to worship with friends and learn at adult forum, and to the ladies' Bible study. With another "angel," LoAnn Hanson, providing transportation, Alice doesn't need to miss any event at church.

Alice told me her faith was severely tested shortly after her divorce and move from Silver Lake to Hutchinson. It was a lonely time for her and the friends she thought she had from her church didn't seem to be there for any support. She now considers Faith to be not only her church family, but her support family. She calls Faith a blessing along with her four children and two grandchildren. She lives by the motto, "They will know we are Christians by our love".



Alice starts and ends every day with prayer and devotions. She told me she lights a candle during this devotion time. I assumed the candle was some long ago practice from her Catholic upbringing so I asked the significance of a lit candle. Her reply: "God's light is shining."

God's light is indeed shining in Alice, but it is also shining in the "angels" whom Alice has encountered in her lifetime. May we all strive to be an angel and a light to someone.



**Hello Faith Lutheran!**

It's been a crazy time these past few months! The stream is going full steam ahead, but we still have plenty of irons in the fire. I miss you all terribly and I can't wait until we meet in person again. Until then, here are some things to think about. For one, once outdoor worship is approved we will need volunteers! Thanks to the efforts from our volunteers last year, setting up the service has become much more approachable and less time consuming, not to mention we have new lighter equipment to carry around thanks to a generous donations from the Hortons! We also owe a big thank you to the Hjerpes for lending their trailer! This service would not be possible without the participation and gifts from many people, so once things start opening up again, give us a call if you are able to help!



Wash your hands and stay safe out there!  
Blessings  
Will



### **Imagine These Effects of a Stay-at-Home Order**

Abdul Messiah reports this sobering fact. Of 1.4 billion people living in India, some 70% of the people live on \$2.00 per day. When they must stay at home, many day laborers become hard pressed to feed their families. Going days without food is too often their reality.. It is also very difficult to isolate socially and, without adequate medical care, COVID-19 can quickly lead to disaster.

You are invited to pick up our most recent New Hope Mission Society newsletter. It gives moving stories of how our mission partners are responding. Out of their very limited resources, given primarily through the partners they have here, they are seeking to feed the hungry, provide masks for the poorest neighbors of the Bishara Center, and more.

One of our partners in Ethiopia has indicated that the country is in a five month lock down. They recognize that, if ever this virus gets loose and runs rampant through the population that they will not see 80,000 deaths but millions dying. There are serious consequences, however, for the pastors and evangelists of this North Central Ethiopia Synod of EECMY. Churches are closed. People, if they could come, have no money to give, and their spiritual leaders are often without pay.

We are struggling also. Some are without work. You at Faith have been blessing this congregation's witness with faithful giving, and your leaders thank you. As we may be sacrificing to be generous, we keep this in perspective. We pray and we give generously that our mission partners can witness to Jesus Christ through word and deed in life giving ways.

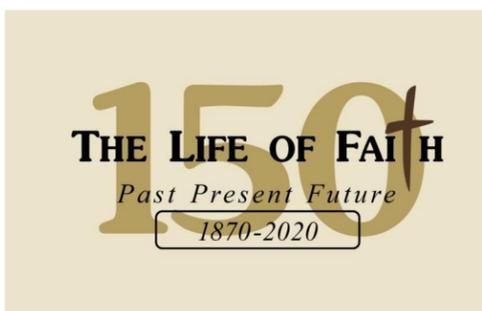
Pastor Paul Knudson



Bishara supports a local community feeding program providing hot and nutritious meals.



Care packages providing food and sanitation items are also being provided for the needy.



**Glimpses From The Dedication...**

A much-needed rainfall did not dampen the spirits of the friends who gathered for the dedication of the new Parish Hall on Sunday, May 12, at 3 p.m. Pictured at the right at the entrance are (left to right): Harold Sanken, Sunday School superintendent; Irving Larson, chairman of the Building Committee; Cliff Betker, builder; Rev. William Larsen, UELC President; Pastor N. B. Hansen, Poy Sippi, Wisconsin; and Pastors H. A. Svendsen and Edward A. Hansen of Main Street Lutheran Church.



Above — Pastor Hansen thanks Synod President Larsen for his part in the day's festivities.

The four participating pastors pose in front of the fireplace in the Fireside Room. —Photos by Brinkman.



**Did you know . . . ?**

Did you know that Faith Lutheran's (Main Street Lutheran's) monthly newsletter used to be called the *MESSENGER*?

In the June, 1957 edition the following article appeared.

**If You Drive to Church, Read This:**

You have probably noticed that it has become increasingly hard to find a place to park your car near the church. As a result, some cars have been parked in areas that constitute a traffic hazard.

There are prospects that a supermarket will buy the lots north of the church property in the near future. Plans include the building of a parking lot which will accommodate about 40 cars, and this will be available for the use of our members on Sundays.

In the meantime, we must ask all who drive cars to church to observe the following directives: 1) No double or triple parking while waiting to pick up children from Sunday School. 2) No parking in the alley behind the church. 3) No parking in the driveways or yards of neighboring homes. Let us respect our neighbors' rights. 4) No parking in front of the walkways by the entrance of the church. 5) Children may be unloaded in front of the Parish Hall on Main Street to attend Sunday School, but patrols under supervision of the Chief of Police Frank Broderius will take the children to the intersections of 3rd and 4th Avenues with Hassan Street for loading. Do not attempt to pick up children at the Main Street entrance. This is a state highway, and through traffic must not be obstructed.

*Over the past 63 years it is fun to look at the many things that have changed and the ones that have stayed the same.*

**Faith Lutheran Church is Re-opening...Slowly**

As we try to navigate reopening Faith Lutheran, we will do our best to continue to follow recommended guidelines to keep us all safe. We know that there are a number of you that cannot wait to resume Bible studies and worship in person. We also know there are many who are not ready to be out in public yet and there are also people somewhere in the middle. We want you to know that we are doing our best to navigate what this re-opening looks like. We ask for your grace and patience as we know that we will not do this perfectly, but we will continue to serve all of you to the best of our abilities.

We are working daily to plan what worship will look like in the coming weeks and months. We want to open the building up slowly and we ask for your help in keeping everyone safe. There are some things that will be done and look different, so we ask for your patience and understanding when things are not “back to normal” they way we remember.

At this time, we are again opening the doors of the church during the week. We will start by having a few Bible studies meet in person this month. Lectionary on Tuesdays at 12 noon will possibly be in person and live-streamed. Men’s 6:30 a.m. Thursday Bible study is resuming in person. Women’s 7:30 a.m. Friday Bible study will be meeting in person and via Zoom. The exercise group and the book club are also back on the calendar for June. We are also considering how to present the Wednesday morning prayer time as an in-person and live stream option.

We welcome you to stop in anytime to talk with a staff member, pick up a bulletin, drop off an offering, or just say *Hi*.

A couple of things to consider before you come in the building. As you all have heard, ***if you are not feeling well PLEASE STAY HOME*** and protect your neighbors! We ask you to continue to wash your hands frequently and use the hand sanitizer that is around the building. We are not requiring you to wear masks at this time, but we are also not discouraging it. We do ask you to keep social distance guidelines in mind, so handshakes and hugs will need to wait a while longer.

We look forward to seeing your faces again soon, and ask you all to be respectful and gracious to those who are approaching this re-opening with a different perspective than yours.

In the meantime, we will continue to broadcast worship services on KDUZ and Channel 10. We will also continue to live-stream the Sunday 10:10 services on Facebook, while we wait to gather with you in person as soon as we can!

Grace and Peace to you!

***Note: as this is continues to be a rapidly changing situation, we ask that you watch our website, Facebook page, and listen for announcements during worship services for the most current updates.***



**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.**  
**THURSDAYS 10 P.M.**



Facebook.com/  
FaithLutheranHutchinson

Contact your Faith Lutheran Church Staff with any questions at 320-587-2093. The office will be staffed Monday - Friday from 8:30 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Plain**

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  
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](mailto: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 front page.