

Faith Matters - September 2020

Pastor's Page

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

God's PROMISE, Abraham's Faith.

FALL 2020

Is God faithful
to His promise?
Will Abraham
trust in His
promise?
Will we?

We will explore these questions and more this Fall at Faith Lutheran as we immerse ourselves in the vitally important and epic account of the great patriarch, Abraham. We will dive into the Genesis accounts and learn from the lives of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Ishmael, Lot, and others. More importantly, we will see the plan and grace of God unfold in their lives, and our lives as well!

In the crazy pandemic world we live in, perhaps you have found yourselves anxious, impatient, frustrated, and longing. If so, Abraham's story will speak to you in powerful ways. There are a number of ways to engage in this series:

1. Through preaching - the preaching series will start September 13.
2. Through Faith Groups - take advantage of the accompanying Faith Group small group study.
3. Through Faith Seeds - kids will get a new project piece every week during Faith Seeds.

But what about COVID-19?

As you have experienced the last five

months, the name of the game is flexibility, adaptability, and agility! So, we are making plans, and back-up plans, and plans for the back-up plans! That said, we are pretty excited for fall! Here's what we are planning:

1. September 13 will feature outdoor worship, first day of Sunday School, and a picnic! We'll have regular First Word worship in the sanctuary and a Digging Deeper class in the Faith Center, but everything else will be at Library Square, including the first day of Sunday School for the kids. Be sure to bring some food for a post-worship picnic!
2. September 20 returns to a regular schedule with irregular adjustments. We'll go back to our typical program year schedule, with First Word, Digging Deeper, and simultaneous Sanctuary and Foundation services, but we'll also offer some streamed, social distance overflow seating in other areas of the church. We want everyone to feel safe and be healthy, and yet also experience the gathered community of believers!

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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.

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3. Online options throughout! We realize that there are many who are still not comfortable gathering for worship and education, so we will continue to stream a 10:10 service, as well as continue to offer our regular radio and HCVN broadcasts. We also plan to offer a live-streamed Digging Deeper class for adults, as well as Sunday School offerings on Facebook.

God is faithful to His promises, and He will see us through this crazy time! As always, if there is any way we can serve you under these unique circumstances, please do not hesitate to reach out. It's going to be a great fall!

See you in church - online or in person!

Pastor Dave

Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

One of the dream goals for Faith's 150th anniversary was to finish paying the church's mortgage this year as an anniversary gift to ourselves. Sadly, the anniversary year was interrupted by the pandemic and the big anniversary celebration was put off until 2021.

The silver lining to that is it provides us another, better opportunity to pay off the mortgage as part of the anniversary celebration. The principal balance on the loan is now below \$300,000. Making our usual payments will bring it below \$200,000 by January of 2021 and pay it off entirely by the end of next year!



A burst of extra generosity now, however, could bring that date forward so that, when the big anniversary celebration does occur next year, it could include a burning of the mortgage. What a great way to celebrate that would be!



Q: Why did Satan lose his status as an angel?

A: Satan does not appear all that often in the Bible and most of those references simply name him as the instigator of unbelief and disobedience. The backstory of Satan being cast out of heaven only appears in three places—the introduction to Job, Jesus' statement that "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning" (Matthew 10:18) and the vision of "the great red dragon" in Revelation 12.

Of those three passages, only Job gives any sense of *why* Satan was eventually cast out of heaven. There, Satan is not a personal name, but a position or office. "The Satan" means "the Accuser" and he served as God's district attorney, bringing people up on charges of sin or wrongdoing in order for God to pass judgment on them. It is evident, however, that Satan enjoyed that role too much, that his goal was not only to identify sin, but to cause it, to stir up trouble out of his resentment or frustration with God. It's safe to assume that, at some point, his rebellion against God became intolerable and God exiled him from the heavenly court.

Still, it is not explained *why* Satan was so envious of God and determined to undermine His will. What we do know, though, from the Bible and our own experience, is that just that kind of unwillingness or inability to trust God is the very heart of sin. As sin separated Satan from God, so sin separates us from God. The difference is that God forgives our sin for Jesus' sake, saving us from the eternal condemnation that Satan brought on himself.

One last point in thinking through this question. In a technical sense, Satan didn't "lose" his status as an angel. Demons are the same sort of being as angels, but wholly corrupt. That is important to note, because it reminds us that God and Satan are not equals, evenly pitted against each other. Satan is but a fallen angel and thus has no chance of ultimately frustrating God's will for creation.



Pastor Paulus

“When are we going to have Seniors’ Potluck again?” In some form or other, I have been receiving this question. Obviously, as with many other events shut down by the Covid 19 monster, my answer is always, “I don’t know.” I wish I did. I miss this special monthly Christian fellowship as well.

So far, we have not called our steering committee together to plan a year of topics and programs. We don’t want to plan things that eventually get canceled. So we are trying to wait patiently, in hopes the coronavirus begins to let up.

In the meantime, let us be thankful that we can look forward to the time Seniors’ Potluck will begin again. I like to think about this pandemic in the context of our life in Christ. We Christians believe God has purpose in all our movements through our life on earth, day after day. I ask what it is that God wants me to understand from our current experiences of disconnectedness and deprivation. What can I learn from a faith perspective as we wait, and fear, and even get depressed at times? As I see people in the Bible living through hard times, one thing is always clear: God is leading and caring for His people all the while. When the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land, based on the reports of 10 of the 12 spies, God declared none of those alive at the time would ever get there. There was a 40-year wait in the

wilderness before God finally told Joshua to lead their children in. God was not only punishing them for their failure to trust Him to give them that Promised Land. He was also preparing them for a future of great things in the future, if they but trusted where and how He would lead them.

How is God preparing us now? And for what? What good does God have in mind for us up ahead? Only He knows, of course. But I hope you believe He is busy preparing all people of faith to enter into whatever that “good” will be. Let’s live in high hopes and full trust in God that He is preparing us for some gracious purpose as His children when Covid 19 passes!

Ponder this, one of my favorite passages, in I Thessalonians 5:16-17:

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

God’s peace and power to you all. Pastor Paulus



Caregiver Support Group

This support group has resumed and is meeting on the last Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. in the Faith Center. All are invited. Contact Pastor Paulus Pilgrim or Marsha Schmit for more details.



Hello Faith Lutheran,

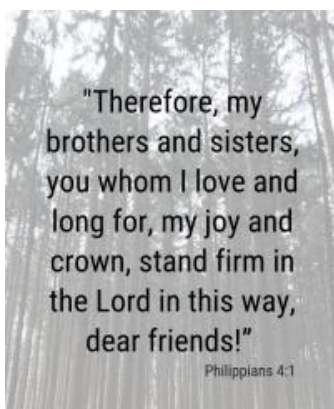
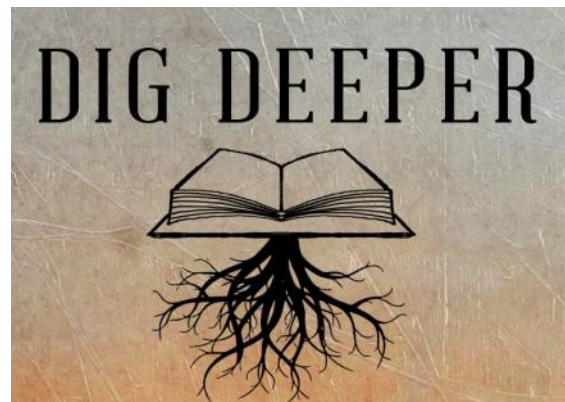
Since this is my LAST Faith Matters, I want to say how grateful I am to have worked here. It has been so much fun working with the staff and volunteers, while feeling like I was a part of a community that has lasted for 150 years! Although our anniversary has not been ideal, it certainly has brought us closer together (metaphorically), and that is something to be grateful for. As mentioned previously, this will not be the last you see of me! Once our anniversary celebration date is set, I'll be coming up again to see all of your wonderful faces. Please stay in touch by e-mail or phone, which you can ask for from me or the staff.

Blessings,
Will



“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Digging Deeper will resume this fall with two on-site offerings and one on-line offering weekly from September 13 - October 25.



“My Joy and Crown,” a study of the book of Philippians, will start on **September 13** in the **Faith Center**. After a summer of reading and preaching on Romans, the lectionary begins a series of second lessons from Philippians. This letter has a more personal and less formal feel to it than Romans. Paul founded the Philippian church and maintained a warm, supportive relationship with the believers there. His letter to them contains some of the most beloved passages in the New Testament, as he encouraged them to endure in faith in the face of many struggles.

The following options start on September 20

“The Worst Parents” Learning what NOT to do from Old Testament parents! We’ve all been there as parents: you forget to pick up your kid from practice, you feed them fast food four days in a row, you lose your temper over trivial things... And every time it’s the same: you think you must be the worst parent ever! Well take heart! After all, have you ever had your kids kill each other? Or sell one another into slavery? Join Pastor Dave as we learn from some Old Testament parents who will make our parenting look spectacular! We’ll learn what NOT to do, and encourage one another on what we can do to raise good and faithful kids.



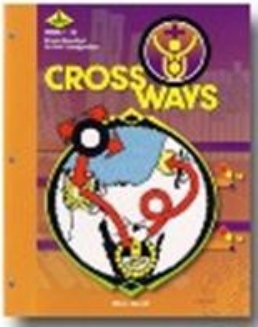
Each week there will be an online Digging Deeper class during the 9 a.m. hour via Facebook live. The first session will be presented by pastoral intern Jeff Amundson.

This fall, I am very excited about putting together a Digging Deeper series that will focus on an area of my internship, either Mission or Pastoral Care.

This time, I am planning a Digging Deeper where each week we focus on one or two of our main mission partners. Hoping to include some virtual interviews with them or maybe actual link into the meeting. It is a lot to put together, but I think offering a time for more of the congregation to get to know the story behind those we support would be terrific. We should be humbly proud at the work God is inspiring them to do and the doors they are opening for others.

Crossways Bible Studies

A new year-one *Crossways* Bible study will begin in September. *Crossways* is a “big picture” study of the entire Bible. It includes an overview of each book, placed in the framework of the Bible’s “big story.” It combines Bible reading, commentary and full-color illustrations to show how the whole Bible fits together. Want to know your Bible better? *Crossways* is for you!



Crossways classes meet for 20 weeks per year for three years.
Year 1—The **NEW** class will begin on **Monday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Faith Center, where there will be plenty of room to maintain social distance!
Year 2 will resume on Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Year 3 will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Crossways materials can be purchased or borrowed from the church. Contact Pastor Scott to sign up for the new class or to get more information.



Jeremiah: Severe, Suffering, Steadfast Postponed Prophet

Pandemic restrictions cut short last year’s Monday morning study of Jeremiah—leaving out some of the best parts! So, the study will resume on Monday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m. with a brief reminder of what was covered last year, followed by the remainder of last year’s study. This will last through the fall and a different topic will then begin in January.



The Bizarre Bible Facebook Bible Study (fbBS)

Thursday night Facebook Bible study resumes on Thursday, September 17 at 9 p.m. Get the dishes done, tuck the children in bed, slip into your pj’s, snuggle up in your favorite chair with your personal device for this 30-40 minute time to dig into God’s Word to end your day.



Faith Groups – Fall 2020

This new Faith Groups series will start the **week of September 20**. It will be based on significant moments in Abraham’s life and how they relate to ours. It will coincide with a weekly preaching series.

Please watch for sign-ups or contact Marsha for more information on how to participate in a group.

If you have not yet been a part of Faith Groups, this is the perfect time to start. You won’t want to miss being a part of this series!

New Members

New members will be received this fall! The dates have not yet been set, but if you or someone you know would like to join Faith Lutheran, please contact Marsha Schmit (marshas@faithlc.com) or one of the staff.





Ongoing Bible Study Opportunities

- 9:00 a.m. Monday - Friday Daily Faith Encouragement (via Facebook)
- 12:00 noon Tuesday Lectionary Study
- 6:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer (in person or via Facebook)
- 6:30 a.m. Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study
- 7:00 a.m. Friday Morning Women's Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

Contact the church office to learn more about any of these Bible Study groups.

Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church ***Beginning Sunday, Sept. 20***

- 8:00 a.m. First Word**
(Traditional Service in the sanctuary streamed into the Faith Center for overflow seating)
- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class**
- 9:15 Multiple adult education opportunities**
- 10:10 a.m. Sanctuary Service**
(Blended service in the sanctuary streamed into the youth space for overflow seating)
- 10:10 a.m. Foundation Service**
(Contemporary service in Foundation streamed into the Faith Center for overflow seating)

Fall Kickoff Sunday **September 13**



Outdoor worship has been extend one week to September 13. There will be Sunday School in Library Square at 9 a.m. Worship will be followed by a BYO picnic lunch in the park. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Come and worship, and then stay and socialize while enjoying your family's favorite picnic lunch.

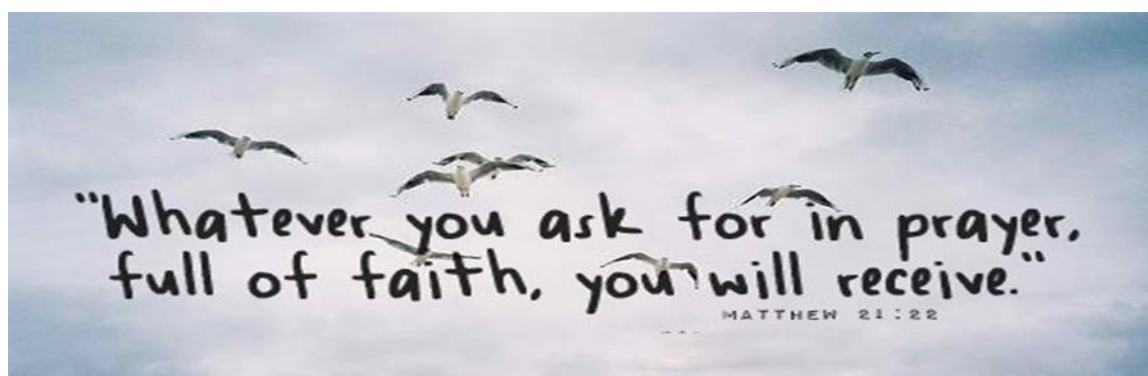
Current Covid-19 Pandemic Protocols

As we move inside full-time for worship along with a variety of activities and classes, we ask you to please observe the following protocols.

- *If you or anyone in your home feels at all unwell, please stay home and watch one of the broadcasts.
- *If you are anxious about gathering at the church, feel free to stay home for now.
- *Parents, if you have a child who is not feeling well, please keep him or her home from Sunday school or confirmation classes and participate in the on-line offerings instead.
- *In light of current health guidelines, we encourage you to print and bring your own copy of the bulletin to cut down on contact. The bulletins can be found weekly on our Facebook page and website.
- *We ask family/household groups to maintain social distance when in the church building.
- *According to state guidelines, wearing a face mask indoors is mandated, with some exceptions.
- *More information is available on Faith's Facebook page or in the church office.

Minutes in Prayer

September 2020



Dear Friends in Christ – Please read this letter:

- ♦ as an invitation to join in prayer;
- ♦ as a reminder of our need to pray;
- ♦ as an urgent plea to join in prayer;
- ♦ and, as a reminder that our Lord and Savior has commanded us to bring all our fears, needs, hopes, and dreams to Him.
- ♦ In Matthew 7:7, Jesus promised, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”

We encourage you to be intentional in prayer for our families, our neighbors, our community, our state, our nation, and our world. Our needs and focus may seem overwhelmed with unimaginable issues. So, we are offering a prayer calendar on the next page as a way to name all our concerns and to remind us to pray daily. It has one prayer topic for each day. It is just a small tool that can be used as you want. If you have other prayer habits or means, please carry on! We also encourage you to share this prayer initiative with others.

“Minutes in Prayer” is the theme for this prayer initiative and it also is a group on Facebook, *Minutes in Prayer*. All are welcome to read what is posted and to post prayers.

If you have questions or if we can help you in other prayerful ways, please ask:

Jan Kreie – jancry2@mediacombb.net
Dorothy Desens – ddesens@hutchtel.net
Gail Telecky – rtelecky@mchsi.com

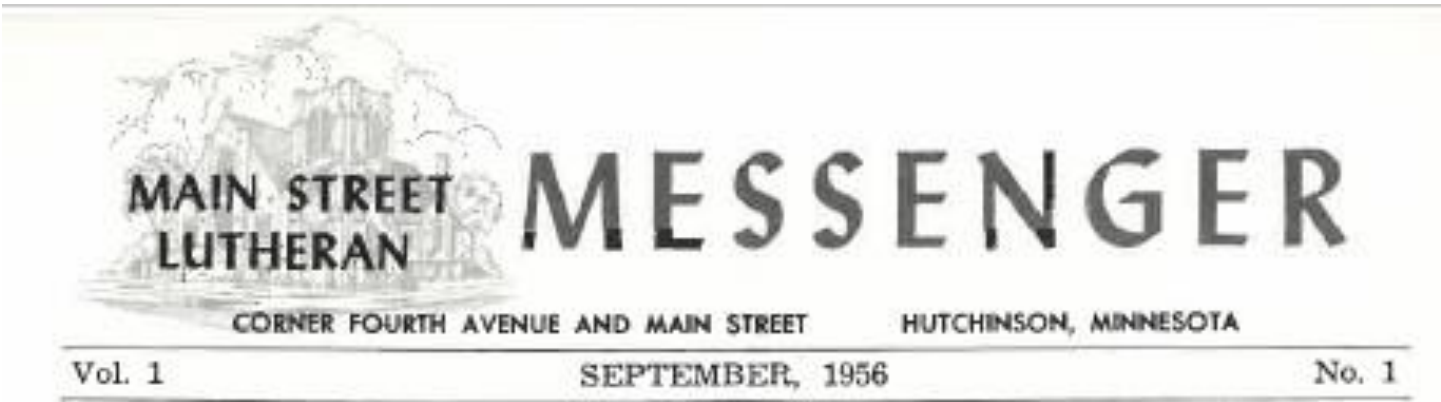


Important!

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 150th Anniversary Celebration planned for October has been postponed until 2021.

The anniversary edition pictorial directory has also been postponed into 2021.

Did you know . . . that this newsletter, the monthly *Faith Matters*, used to have a different name? It was originally called the *Messenger*. As you can see by the header below, the first edition of the *Messenger* was published 64 years ago this month, in September, 1956. This monthly publication has gone from a small one page, two-sided newsletter with very small print, to a much larger publication that is sent via mail or e-mail to approximately 700 households every month. It is amazing to see how Faith Lutheran Church has grown, thrives, and shares the good news in so many ways.



Matthew 25:40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.'



Common Cup Ministry

Faith Lutheran Church is currently supporting Common Cup by collecting **school supplies** through August 27 and **children's winter wear** through October. Lists of exact items and sizes can be found in the church office or on the CCM website at <https://www.common-cup.org/programs>

Free Community Meals

The monthly Free Community Meal calendar does not have a sponsor for the September, November and December meals. Would you, your family, your Faith Group, or your Bible study group support this ministry by providing a meal? Contact the office for more details on how you can help support this vital ministry. Currently serving all meals as take out only.



Faith's Endowment Fund at Work for Missions: A Word of Thanks

New Hope Mission Society and its partners in mission express their profound gratitude for the generosity that has recently been demonstrated again through major gifts from the FLC Endowment Fund. In face of severe financial challenges of NHMS to meet its commitments through our partners at the Bishara Center and Shaliach's Bible College in India, the recent gift of \$8,600 from the endowment is a great blessing. In addition, \$2,000 was given for a special project, which helped to match a \$25,000 gift with the result that \$50,000 is now available to resupply literature used in outreach to Muslim people and much more. Put these gifts together with ongoing gifts through the congregation's budget and member donations and FLC quietly but importantly leads. THANK YOU!

Several other missions were also given gifts through the annual dispersal of income from the endowment fund. Faith Lutheran gives generously from its annual budget, but the support of our mission partners made possible through the endowment fund extends our witness near and far in meaningful ways.

Prayers Requested: One of our partners through the Augustana District is All India Masih Jamat, AIMJ. The director of this mission recently reported a rash of severe beatings of recently converted Christians. Pray for their recovery and that they will, by the grace of God, remain strong in faith in Jesus Christ, their merciful Savior. It is good for us to remember that, despite challenges to faith in the West, our witness can go forth without threat to life.



Faith's Endowment Fund Annual Distribution

The FLC Endowment Fund was established in 1983. The proceeds of the fund are never spent, while the annual proceeds are dedicated to mission projects and cannot be used for the church's operational expenses. With a new mix of investments and great market returns last year, the endowment was able to distribute considerably more money than in 2019. Besides the gifts to New Hope Mission Society noted above, the endowment funded local, regional and world missions such as Common Cup, scholarships for graduating high school seniors, support for seminaries, and ministry support for FLC alumni serving in parachurch ministries (Katie Weikle, Steven and Jen Freund, Leia and Guy Johnson, and Jake Larson.)

The endowment fund welcomes new gifts from offerings or estates. The larger the principal, the greater the proceeds to distribute each year. Best of all, such gifts will serve Christ's Church in perpetuity. To learn more about the endowment fund, contact Pastor Scott.

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SUNDAYS 8 A.M.

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CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 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)
LT Brett Stadsklev (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:

Faith Lutheran Church		
INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY		
335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com		
Pastors		
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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
Jeffrey Amundson, Intern	320-587-2093 (office)	jeffa@faithlc.com
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Open Position, Director of Music & Worship		
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	

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

Oaks
Marcella Brede
Beverly Kirchner
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Pines
Mayonne Martin

Prairie Senior Cottages
Pat Fimon
Harold (Swede) Sandgren

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.

