

Faith Matters - October 2020

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastor's Page

The British coined the term “the silly season” to describe “a time, usually in the late summer, characterized by exaggerated news stories about frivolous matters for want of real news.” In our country, the term has more often been used sarcastically to describe political campaigns, and especially all the extravagant and too often baseless promises made by politicians in order to get elected.

With a presidential election just a month away, we are deep into the silly season right now, but I am not sure how well the term applies anymore. First, it feels as if campaigns are now a permanent feature of our society, starting virtually the day after election day. Moreover, a steady stream of “exaggerated news stories about frivolous matters” seems to be about all that the media offers these days. It is increasingly hard to find a straight news story that does not reveal the bias of the author, “bombshell” stories turn out to be thinly-disguised campaign ads, and journalism is so obsessed with social media that many on-line articles consist of little more than various comments copied from Twitter. It seems as if it is all silly season, all the time.

Given that, it is tempting just to shut it all off and tune it all out, but that is not much of a solution. Especially in a republic like ours, a well-informed

populace is critically important, but the responsibility for evaluating and judging the trustworthiness of any information we receive increasingly falls on the consumer. If there ever was a day when one could simply trust whatever came from any particular media outlet, it no longer seems to be the case.

In the midst of this perpetual silly season, Christians have a distinct advantage. We have a reliable and certain criterion by which to evaluate anything we read and hear. In John 8:31-32, Jesus promised, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” Jesus and the words he declares to us are the ultimate truth, so the best way to know and judge the truth of what we read and hear is to evaluate it according to the Gospel.

Obviously, that does not mean that the Bible directly addresses modern public policy issues, but it does provide an unshakable truth against which all claims can be measured. Here is one example. A pastoral colleague recently wrote an article about the dilemma of choosing between a candidate’s personal qualities and the policies he or she supports, especially when those two

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RADIO BROADCAST
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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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are at odds. He pointed to Mark 12:30-31, where Jesus summed up the whole Law by saying, "The most important commandment is this: love the Lord your God with all your heart ... soul ... mind ... and strength. And the second is this: love your neighbor as yourself."

Then my friend continued, "When it comes to our relationship with God and our neighbors, love must be the controlling factor. To God we owe our complete love and trust. To our neighbors we owe our best effort to do whatever is most loving for them.... In short, whatever shows greatest love to our neighbor, whatever results in greatest benefit to our neighbor, that is what should control our actions..." To be sure, discerning the most loving response in any particular situation is not always simple or obvious,

especially in a world as confused about love as ours is. It will not be a quick or facile choice, but this is an example of how Biblical criteria can help us to evaluate what we hear, and to make sound decisions about how to respond.

Given the state of the world today, I think it is more important than ever for Christians to maintain a healthy skepticism about whatever claims we hear, to evaluate them in light of the Bible, and to strive to insure that all our words and actions express love for God and love for our neighbors. A concerted effort to do so just might make this silly season a bit less silly.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Grorud

Changing the Pattern

Since late last year, we have been encouraging the family of Faith to "change the pattern" of giving, so that the church does not run huge deficits during the year and then rely on massive year-end giving to cover its expenses. Amazingly, this year, of all years, in spite of all the disruption in worship and ministry, the pattern has changed! Through two-thirds of the year, offerings have covered all but a tiny bit of the church's expenses!

Thank you all for your faithful support of the work God is doing in and through Faith Lutheran. This new pattern of giving is far healthier for the church and a strong encouragement for our ministry. Please continue to give faithfully as the good Lord blesses you to do so!



Q: Why don't we have prophets like Isaiah or Jeremiah anymore?

A: The Bible offers no explanation for why prophecy eventually died out, but prophets did not always exist even in Israel. Although Moses and Samuel were sometimes called prophets, the classic prophetic role began after the monarchy was founded in Israel with men like Nathan and Ahijah.

The prophets whose books are in the Bible burst on the scene a couple of centuries later and remained a vital part of Israelite life for hundreds of years. Over time, however, the quality and vigor of prophecy diminished and, during the second century B.C., some Jewish teachers said the era of prophecy had ended and pointed to the Old Testament scriptures as the source for God's word, instead. Even so, Jewish prophets were still active well after Christianity began.

The New Testament includes prophets as one office in the church (e.g., I Corinthians 12:10), but it seems they functioned much like preachers do today. As the New Testament books were written and recognized as inspired by God, they also came to replace the role of prophets who claimed to be inspired directly by God.

So, the most likely answer to this question is that God called and sent prophets at particular times to address particular situations in Israel and the Church. When those times had passed, God directed His people to the written Word, instead, especially as it testified to the living Word, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.



Seniors' Scene

Pastor Paulus

*"I sure miss getting together for potluck."
"When can we start potluck again?" "I miss
the good food and fellowship."*

Comments like these have been helpful for us to re-think when and how we can begin Seniors' Potluck again. Our Seniors' Potluck steering committee met on September 17 to do some planning for the rest of this year. While it may well have a different look it should have all the elements of good Christian fellowship that warm our hearts and nourish our spirits. We'll have social distancing, safety masks and all that. But we'll also have conversation, food, devotions and joke-provoking laughter.

Mark this date on your calendar: **Thursday, October 29, at 1:00 p.m.**, in the **Faith**

Center. Just bring yourself, your friends, and your protective mask. No hand shaking or hugging. Keep 6 feet apart. We'll seat 2-3 at each table. While we'll still call it "potluck," **don't bring food to share.** Food treats will be supplied for you, in pre-wrapped packages. Coffee will also be available for those who want it.

We'll have a program too. As you may have heard, we have had a new Director of Music and Worship join our staff. His name is Austin Wilhite. He is eager to get started in his new position, and get acquainted with you people of Faith Lutheran. As in the past, we invite the new staff people to come to Seniors' Potluck and introduce themselves to us, so they can become our friends as well as workers in our midst. We want to welcome Austin warmly, and make him feel at home. So...please look forward to this interesting date and time.

Later, we'll let you know what's in store for the future. See you at Seniors' Potluck, on **Thursday, October 29, at 1:00 p.m.** Please note the different time—it's AFTER dinner. Bring someone new.

Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church

- 8:00 a.m. First Word
(Traditional Service in the sanctuary
streamed into the Faith Center
for overflow seating)**
- 9:10 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)**

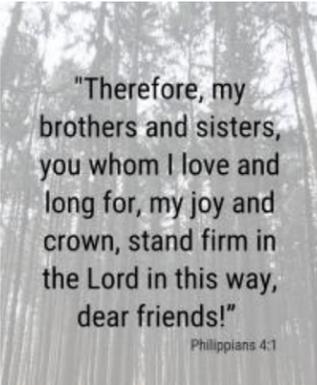
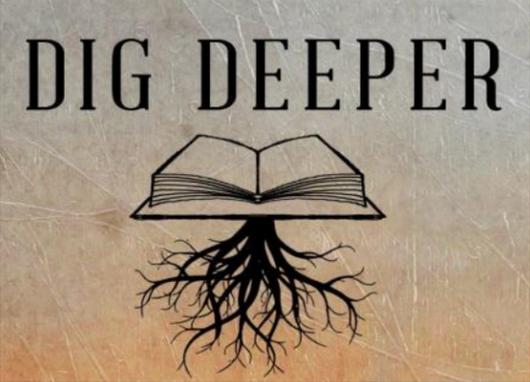
Current Covid-19 Pandemic Protocols

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

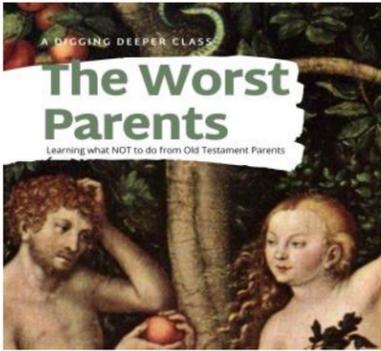
“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Digging Deeper continues this month with two on-site offerings and one on-line offering weekly through October 18.



“My Joy and Crown,” a study of the book of Philippians, meets 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 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 in the third floor conference room 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.



“Missionaries” *Each week there will be an online Digging Deeper class during the 9 a.m. hour via Facebook live. This first session will be focusing on a number of the mission partners that Faith Lutheran supports.*

The October 4 Mission Focus will be a couple that many of you will remember. It will be a chance to catch up on what Steven and Jen Freund have been up to in South America. You can check their website out at <https://southamericamissions.org/donate/missionaries/freund-steven-jen/>

Each week, we will look at a different person or organization and because we will be doing this via Facebook, you can watch it anytime!



new MEMBERS CLASS

New Members

New members will be received October 18. Orientation classes will be held on Sunday mornings, Oct. 4, 11 and 18 at 9:15 a.m. If you or someone you know would like to join Faith Lutheran, please contact Marsha Schmit (marshas@faithlc.com) or one of the staff at 587-2093.

Global Health Ministries: Newborn and Hospice Kits

Once again we are collecting items for Newborn Kits and Hospice Kits. They will be sent to third World Countries through Global Health Ministries. Please drop items off at the church office. THANK YOU!

- 80 regular size bath towels
- 80 wash clothes
- 40 Ivory soap bar
- 40 Dove soap bar
- 40 newborn onesies
- 40 newborn stocking caps
- 80 cloth diapers
- 40 toothbrushes – in original package
- 40 pick-style combs
- 40 nail clippers
- 40 petroleum jelly-about 4 oz.
- 40 pair household heavy duty gloves, medium size
- 240 band aids



Orphan Grain Train †

Orphan Grain Train is ranked #6 out of 9,000 nationally rated charities by Charity Navigator. Orphan Grain Train does NOT accept government grants or federal funding; 98.2% of all donations go towards Orphan Grain Train's mission. Only 1.8% is used for administrative and marketing cost.

The blankets, pillowcase dresses and school bags that Faith Lutheran donates are sent to the Norfolk, Nebraska warehouse. That location loaded and sent 99 full semi-trailers to:

53 loads to Black Hawk, SD	3 loads to Holbrook, AZ	3 loads to Laredo, TX
3 loads to Thoreau, NM	9 loads to Lincoln, NE	8 loads to Quemado, TX
8 loads to ElPaso, TX	4 loads to Mission, TX	1 load to New Rochelle, NY
1 load to Fort Wayne, IN		
Domestic Disaster Relief:	3 loads to Spring, TX	4 loads to Verdigre, NE

International shipments of food were sent to the following 18 countries:

Philippines, Nicaragua, Zambia, Republic of Georgia (eastern Europe), Ghana, Guatemala, Latvia, India, Haiti, Liberia, Panama, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malawi, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, Uzbekistan

For addition information you can go to www.ogt.org



“You Will Be My Witnesses Beginning in (Your) Jerusalem”
Reflections by Pastor Paul

When we think of missions locally at our FLC Church in the World Ministry team meetings, we usually think of Common Cup, Wings, the McLeod County Food Shelf, and others related to alleviating some form of human suffering. These are all very important to our Christian witness. Jesus commands us “to love your neighbor, as you love yourself.”

It is quite infrequent when we focus on our Lord’s Great Commission to be his witnesses beginning right here in our homes and community. Yet today, many of us have those close to us who not only spurn attending worship, but also straightforwardly reject the Christian faith as in any way central to their lives.

Surely, there are countless ways that we are simply distracted and can avoid even thinking about matters of faith in God and how this may be central to life. In these few lines, I am more wanting to focus on the reality that more and more of our family and friends are, without apology, rejecting any notion that Jesus Christ is central to life, their lives.

From one whose focus is often directed to witness to those far away in distant lands, I am here inviting conversations about how we are our Lord’s witnesses to those ever so close to us, who see no need to be His own. I for one would be delighted to hear your stories or share your concerns for someone you love.

Some are saying this is our most difficult mission field today. We who believe that making Jesus Christ known is central to our witness will need to wrestle with the challenges in this witness here at home. I surely do not have simple answers but I covet partners in conversation about this challenge.



Find us on the Web
@ FaithLC.com



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

Common Cup Winter Coat Drive

Common Cup will continue to collect children's coats and winter wear through the end of October. You can drop off your gently used items in the church office or at the CCM office.

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.

Getting to Know the Staff

By Marsha Schmit

Did you know that our new Director of Music and Worship, Austin Willhite, grew up in Hutchinson? Austin joined the staff recently and I wanted to introduce him to all of you.

Austin's parents are Larry and Brenda and he has one brother, Cody, who is a junior in high school. They have a family dog named Cleo, who is a Doberman Terrier. Austin said Cleo is three and the family wonders how they lived without her before. They all currently live in rural Buffalo Lake.



After graduating from Hutchinson High School in 2016, Austin went on to study Music with an emphasis in Liturgical Studies and Composition at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. In addition, he also worked on an endorsement in Psychology for Music Therapy. Besides working at Faith, you may see Austin at his part-time job at Squeaky's Grill and Bar, where he has worked for six years.

When I asked him what brought him to Faith Lutheran, he said it was "truly divine intervention at its best." He had applied at a church in a neighboring town, but they had recently filled the position. They agreed to share his information with others looking to hire and connected him with the Personnel Committee here. Austin had met Will Holt earlier this year, when he helped him record his senior project at Luther. He said he "feels comfortable and very thankful for landing at Faith." He's excited to get to know the staff and members here and, of course, to make music with us!

Is he anxious about anything? Here is his answer: "I am most anxious about remembering everything! Even a diligent planner and note taker needs help remembering dates, names, times, etc. I know that if I forget something or need help, I will have you all to remind me and help me along as we get used to worshiping together." Well said, Austin! We do need each other. By the way, he said he likes visits so feel free to stop by his office to say "Hi!"

I am always interested to hear what Bible verse is favored by our new staff members. Austin said his is Isaiah 49:16a: "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." Besides this being his Confirmation verse, he said this about it: "In this passage, God is talking about the restoration of Israel. He will set the captives free, all will be fed, and creation will shout God's praise. Zion says, 'The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.' But God answers with this verse, explaining that His compassion and mercy is so great for us that He has literally carved our names on His flesh so that we will never be forgotten by His love." Wow.

We hope you are as excited to get to know Austin as we are and will introduce yourself to him. Welcome Austin!



Ringers of Faith Returns!

One of the first things Austin is excited to do is to resume the Ringers of Faith Bell Choir. If you have played before or would like to start, no matter your age or skill level, Austin would love to talk to you!

You can reach Austin directly by calling his phone extension at 320-234-8414, via e-mail at austinw@faithlc.com or stop by the music room anytime.





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.



PAST RINGERS OF FAITH ~ Whom do you recognize?

As the Ringers of Faith Bell Choir is making a comeback, we thought it would be fun to “look back” at some of the previous Ringers of Faith. Do you know when Faith first started a bell choir? Can you recognize any of the faces in these youth and adult choir pictures?

How exciting it will be to hear these bells ringing throughout the church again. If you are interested in learning to play, or have missed playing, Austin would love to meet you. All ages and abilities are encouraged to come, pick up a bell and give it a ring as we start this new program year.



Faith Groups

Fall Faith Groups began the week of September 20, but it is not too late to join a group. You can catch up by downloading the study guide and watching the videos posted on the Faith Lutheran Church website at FaithLC.com along with recordings of the coinciding sermons.

This study of God’s Promise and Abraham’s Faith was recorded and ready to go live last spring, but it continues to hold a timely promise for us now.



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 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:

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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
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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.

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