

Faith Matters - November 2020

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastor's Page



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RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
KDUZ 1260 AM

TV BROADCAST
CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

ThanksGIVING!

Greetings, Faith Family!

As you know, this time of pandemic has greatly affected the way in which we worship. One of those areas affected is our time of offering. Instead of passing the offering plates, we have been receiving the offering in plates or baskets by the doors. We also have been noting, at the beginning of the traditional offering time, how thankful we have been for the generous response of our members. God truly provided, through you, throughout this crazy year. In fact, we were experiencing some record giving- coming through the typically poor summer giving months very strong financially. Thanks be to God!

Alas, it seems like all good things eventually come to an end. The strong giving has given way to a lag in giving over the last couple months, so that we are starting to lose the strong position we built up through the summer. Perhaps some of the economic struggles of COVID have caught up to you. Maybe you are dealing with school costs. Or maybe you're depressed about the Vikings (me, too). Whatever it is, for some reason, the giving at church has started to fall behind, and we are losing our solid financial position.

With that said, in this month of Thanksgiving, let's make it a month

of ThanksGIVING, as in thankful giving. Here are three ways to make that happen:

General offering - Drop off your offering weekly in the offering plates by the doors, drop it off during the week, mail it to church, or maybe consider taking advantage of Simply Giving (electronic funds transfer). Your regular, faithful giving enable us to avoid borrowing and continue to offer the strong, innovative, and vital programing Faith is known for.

Upon this Rock - We are finishing year three of this three-year capital campaign as we seek to pay off our Phase One debt. WE ARE SO CLOSE! At the same time, with many folks having already completed their pledges, income for the mortgage payment is drying up, causing us to use up campaign reserves. As Vikings fans, we know that having to use our reserves can be a very bad thing! Consider giving to the campaign, and imagine if we have such a great response that we can finish the loan off still this year!

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Thanksgiving hunger appeal - Every November we designate our Thanksgiving offering towards hunger related causes locally and around the world. As we prepare to gorge ourselves on delicious Thanksgiving feasts (give me all the stuffing!), let's remember those less fortunate!

So, Faith Family, this is a call to action! Let's dig deep and rally as a congregation! Let's finish

the year strong! Let's get our mortgage debt paid so we can turn our eyes to Phase Two (Sanctuary!); Let's put food in hungry stomachs! And let's do all of our ThanksGIVING with thanksgiving! Thanks be to God!

See you in church!

Pastor Dave



Q: Why did God kill His own Son?

A: This question was brought to me by someone who had been challenged to answer it and was wondering how best to respond. It is a question that troubles some people of faith and serves as fodder for skeptics who want to portray God as a monster. Even a supposedly Christian theologian once described Christ's death on the cross as "divine child abuse."

The problem with the question, however, and with the concerns it raises, is that it looks entirely in the wrong direction. God didn't kill His Son; we did. The cross was not an exchange between the Father and the Son. Rebellious sinners rejected Jesus, judged him to be a false teacher and engineered his crucifixion. Ever since, sinners have continued to reject Christ in ways both obvious and subtle, thereby "crucifying again the Son of God and...holding him up to contempt." (Hebrews 6:6)

The more profound question is how God the Father could possibly be so gracious as to forgive sinners who killed Jesus—whether physically or by our unbelief and disobedience—rather than simply destroying us all. The resurrection proved that God was utterly determined that the forgiveness of sins Jesus proclaimed would not be squelched, but extended to all people in every nation. That astounding truth the Bible does not attempt to explain, but only proclaims, in wonder and awe. "For our sake, God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (II Corinthians 5:21) Thanks be to God!



Ringers of Faith

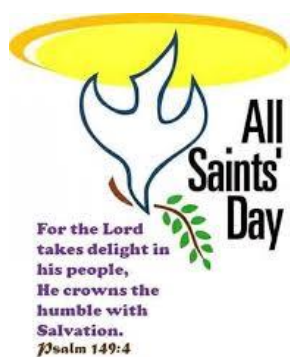
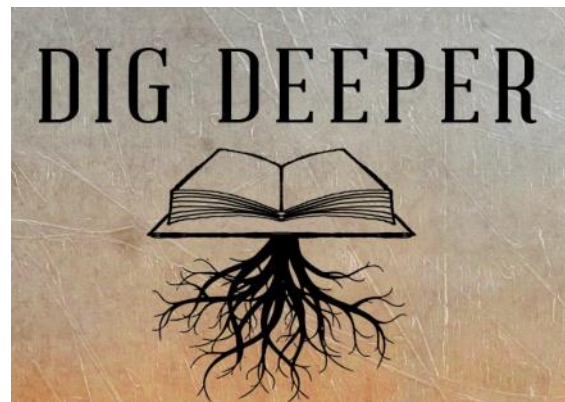


Things are in full swing here in the Music department at Faith...literally! Ringers of Faith and Middle school bells have been hard at work, preparing music for the upcoming holidays. Make sure you're here for the long awaited return of Ringers of Faith on Thanksgiving Eve, Middle school bells will play some special music the end of November, and the staff choir is returning for an encore of music during Thanksgiving as well. There is much to be grateful for and many exciting musical offerings to look forward to. As always, please reach out if you have an interest in participating or any other gifts to share. All are welcome!

Soli deo Gloria,
Austin

“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Sunday morning Digging Deeper classes this month will include two on-site options through November 22.

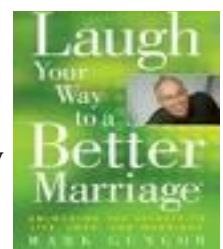


"Stories of the Saints"

When it comes to saints, Lutherans follow St. Paul's belief that all Christians are made saints in Holy Baptism. The tradition of recognizing some believers as saints, however, reflects some remarkable accounts of truly gifted people (and not a few that are not quite believable). Starting on All Saints' Sunday, learn the stories of four great Christian servants whose lives reflected the sainthood later granted to them. This class will be led by Pastor Scott Grorud and will meet in the Faith Center.

“Laugh your way to a better marriage”

Join Pastor Dave as we explore underlying dynamics of male/female relationships with practical solutions and hilarious advice. We'll be watching videos from marriage and family speaker, Mark Gungor, and sharing with, laughing with, and supporting each other! This class will meet in the third-floor conference room.



Upon This Rock Capital Campaign



Faith Lutheran has rapidly paid down the debt on the new church addition and, blessedly, we have always had the funds needed for the monthly mortgage payments. That is mostly thanks to steady and generous support from the Faith family, but it is also because Faith's leaders set aside a reserve fund to close the gap between what is received each month and the amount of the payment. That has allowed us to avoid any kind of financial crunch in making those payments.

In 2020, however, giving to Upon This Rock has dropped sharply and the church's reserve fund is now being depleted very quickly. With only about \$230,000 left on the mortgage (paid off by the end of 2021 on our current payment schedule), we hoped to avoid running a new capital campaign for this last year. But without additional offerings, we will soon have to reduce our monthly payment which would stretch the loan out further, or conduct a new capital campaign to seek new pledges.

Please continue to give generously to Upon This Rock, even if you have completed your original pledge to it, so the church can finish off the mortgage and be free of debt! **Thank you!**

Thanksgiving Eve Dessert & Pie Social



Please join us for a Dessert & Pie Social on **Thanksgiving Eve, November 25 after the 6:30 p.m. worship service** in the Faith Center. Overflow areas will be marked. We also need people to sign up to bring a dessert or pie.

Please note: Due to COVID, the pies and desserts must be store bought this year. Come for coffee, a treat and fellowship!



Expressing Thanksgiving through Generosity in Feeding the Hungry

For many years, Faith Lutheran has gathered special gifts to relieve hunger in our community and around the world. Our minimum goal is \$5,000, while our challenge goal is \$10,000. As these gifts are distributed to Faith's ministry partners near and far, they will be used faithfully and carefully to help God's beloved children who are desperately hungry to have the daily sustenance they need.

This year, a major focus for the outcome of our giving will be to provide resources through the **New Hope Mission Society** to feed people in India who are living on the edge of starvation. In normal times, countless people in India live on \$2.00 per day for all of their needs. With the pandemic, huge numbers of day laborers are without work, and therefore challenged to provide food of any kind for their families.

Abdul Messiah, Pastor K.K. Alavi, and the community at the Bishara Center that we support have special concerns not only for those in the local community without food but especially for those persecuted Christians that are struggling to survive in these very trying times. Our generosity will extend their witness in very important ways, as they feed the hungry. The regular support NHMS sends each month cannot begin to meet this challenge.



One of our other mission partners, **Friends of Madagascar Mission**, is working in several prisons and a major hospital, in which prisoners and patients depend on outside help from families and mission organizations to have food. A portion of your gifts will address these needs.

Finally, we indeed do have people in our own community who regularly have inadequate food for healthy living. Your gifts will also help meet these needs through **Common Cup Ministries, the McLeod County Food Shelf, and the direct work of Faith Lutheran Church.**

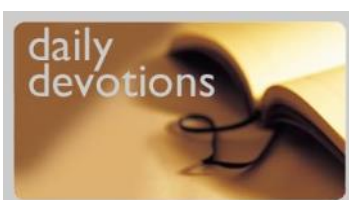
Your gifts this year will be divided in the following ways:

NHMS Partners in India: 50%

FOMM'S feeding program in Madagascar: 15%

Local Hunger Efforts: 35%

OUR GOAL THIS YEAR: TO REACH AND EXCEED OUR BASIC GOAL OF \$5,000.



Daily Faith Encouragement

Join your FLC staff each day, Monday - Friday, for a brief devotion at 9 a.m. These devotions are live on Facebook and are also recorded and available to watch anytime. Start out your day digging into the Word!



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

Find us on the Web
@ FaithLC.com

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.

Common Cup Ministries

First of all, **THANK YOU** for all the continued support Common Cup receives from Faith.

This is what we have been doing and will be doing!

School Supplies – 24 backpacks with supplies were delivered to each grade level in our K-5 schools. If you know of any family that still needs something for school, please let us know!



Warm Coats – We will distribute warm coats in the parking lot behind the CCM office on Tue., Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. This is a coats-only event but we will ask for information regarding the need for snow pants, boots, warm mittens, etc.

Backpack Feeding Program – At this time, we have not delivered any weekend food products to the kids on free and reduced lunch (K-5th grade) because we haven’t received the information yet. These bags of food are available for anyone to pick up in the box behind the CCM office. If you know of any family that could benefit from this, please have them stop in the back and pick up one bag per week per child.

Food for older kids - We are also providing food products to the REACH programs at HHS and at Lester Prairie. We are hoping to expand this food outreach by providing products at our Middle School.

PoPP (Products of Personal Care) are delivered to each 5-12 grade school in McLeod County on a monthly basis.

Christmas Family Project – CCM will again distribute food products and gifts to families. Joan Smith is the project coordinator for this. We try to help families who have not received help in past years at Christmas. We ask our pastors & staff to identify families and to let Bev Bonte, director of CCM, know.

We continue to supply CCM with **prayer shawls**. These shawls are shared with our local Cancer Center and anyone who can benefit from a reminder that they are held in prayer.

Diapers are distributed at the office on the last Tuesday of each month from 11 am – 12:30 pm. Again, if you know of anyone who needs diapers, please give them this information.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please e-mail me or call me at 320-583-9490 or 320-587-6733.

Again, **THANK YOU!!!!**
Geri Johnson, CCM Board Member



DID YOU KNOW . . . at the annual meeting on November 19, 1958, Main Street Lutheran Church members voted to change the name of the congregation to Faith Lutheran Church? The congregation authorized the change after learning that there was some confusion as to the corporate title of the church. It had gone under various names, but the Articles of Incorporation were never legally filed. Thus the Hutchinson Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church / Danish Evangelical Lutheran Association / Main Street Lutheran Church, officially became FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Pastoral Care Notes:



Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

This is a new communication that will appear in some issues of *Faith Matters*. “**Pastoral Care Notes**” will clarify some issues concerning your need for pastoral ministry to reassure you of God’s care and presence at difficult times.

One of those times is hospitalization. Occasionally, someone will say, “I was in the hospital and was never visited by a pastor.” When that happens, we are as upset as you might be. We all need to hear God’s comforting word amidst struggles with illness. There can be loss of energy and clarity of mind during illness, so having a pastor read Scripture and pray brings comfort and assurance. We hope no one is ever deprived of the gift of God’s compassion and power through a pastoral visit.

Hospitals and nursing homes, however, will not notify pastors when a parishioner is admitted. Even if you are asked for your religious affiliation when you are admitted, the hospital will not notify us that you are in the hospital or nursing home. Until recently, the hospital would tell us if a member of Faith Lutheran was hospitalized, but Hutchinson Health’s new corporate parent, Health Partners, will not allow even that, making it even harder to identify our people in need.

That means that the *only* way we will know you are hospitalized is if you or someone on your behalf notifies the church. If we know you are hospitalized, we will visit you if at all possible (current Covid-19 restrictions severely limit visits).

Another message we sometimes hear is, “*I know you are so busy, so I didn’t let you know.*” Please understand that we are never too busy to provide pastoral care. So please, make sure to let us know when you are hospitalized, or in similar need. Thank you.

Our Pastoral Care team: Pastors Scott Grorud, David Wollan, Paulus Pilgrim, & Paul Knudson, along with Marsha Schmit.



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.



Please Remember in Prayer

Please remember all those who are serving our country through active duty:

- Braiden Bjorge (Marines, Jacksonville, NC - grandson of Sandy Curtiss)
- Mike Bjorge (Air Force - son-in-law of Sandy Curtis)
- Corporal Colin Bos (Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA - son of Dawn Bos)
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny Rutledge & 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		
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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
Russell Nelson
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
Gerry Grams

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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.

