

Faith Matters - January 2021

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastor's Page

Twenty years!

January 1st marks my 20-year anniversary of doing ministry here at Faith Lutheran. You have put up with me for 20 years! Crazy!

You will be shocked to hear this, but I got my résumé in on the very last day Faith was receiving them. I still remember the two youth that were on my interview committee. I confirmed a kid of one of them couple years ago! I remember a get-to-know-you event Pastor Randy and Pastor Dave organized at Faith on Grove. Faith had only owned the building for about 6 months at that point! I remember Andrea and I moving 3-year-old Josiah and 1-year old Emma into our first little house on 2nd Avenue.

I couldn't even imagine, at that point—a young, wet-behind-the-ears, kid—all the amazing things the next 20 years would bring: all the mission trips, FLY Nights, amazing youth, deep friendships, seminary classes, role-changes, sermons, and fun, fun, FUN!

What has been your story of faith, here at Faith?

How has Faith Lutheran Church impacted you? How has this Faith Family stretched you, blessed you, encouraged you, comforted you, taught you, empowered you, confronted you, disciplined you, and shined the light of Christ upon you?

I've been around for 20-years. You've been around for much longer, or maybe much shorter. Faith Lutheran has been around for 150 years. And guess what!?

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!

Whether you've been a part of the Faith Family for 80 years, 20 years, or 20 minutes, the fun is just getting started! Sure, 2020 was not what we expected. Guess what? Two Thousand Twenty-one isn't guaranteed to be any different! But that doesn't matter! Because 2020, and the 19 years before that, have just shown me that there is not another group of brothers and sisters in Christ that I would rather do this life of faith with!

So buckle up, Faith Lutheran. We're going to continue to proclaim. We're going to continue to create. We're going to continue to celebrate. We're going to continue to encourage, to innovate, to stretch, and to witness. That's what we do, because that's what God has called us to do. And that's what God has empowered us to do by his Holy Spirit!

Thanks for letting me be a part of the fun!

See you in church,
Pastor Dave



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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.

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Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

This year the FLC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, at 12 noon in the sanctuary.

The hope is that a light lunch will be served between 11:30 and 12:00 and the meeting will immediately follow. The nursery will be open with an option to watch via live-stream. There will be overflow seating options available. We are still working on the details for a possible Zoom participation option.

Annual reports will be available for you to pick up at the church beginning Sunday, January 17, and will be mailed out that week.

Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend one way or another. As with many things in this unusual time, this information is subject to change so please check the bulletins and the Faith Lutheran website for any changes.

Snow Birds

For those of you that choose to head South for the winter, we will miss you!

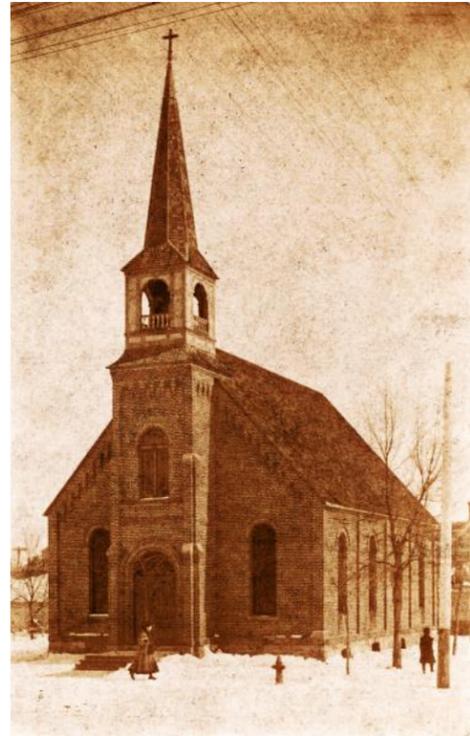
Please contact the church office with your temporary address so we can keep you updated on things happening here at Faith.

Make sure to tune in via Facebook for services and Bible studies. Regularly check our website so you know what you are missing.

Travel safe and see you when the snow melts!



This picture was recently shared on Facebook by Richard Zajicek along with the following information. “My mother’s grandfather, Jonas Pedersen (1828-1926), newly arrived from Denmark, helped found the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hutch in 1870, so I understand. It later became Main Street Lutheran Church, and in 1958 adopted the name Faith Lutheran Church. The Lutherans built this church on 4th & Main, in 1895.”





Q: God made us because He wanted to be loved, cared for and glorified. Do you think God is selfish?

A: This perceptive question from a confirmation student is trying to discern the basic relationship between God and His creatures. The premise of the question, however, has it backward. The accounts of creation in Genesis include no motivation for why God created the

world or made people in His image. Genesis 1:1 states matter-of-factly, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..." God simply chose to create for reasons that are not revealed to us.

On the other hand, because God did choose to create us, we owe it to God to love, care for and glorify Him. It is not a matter of God's motivation, but our identity. Creatures, by definition, owe everything to their Creator.

Tragically, that is where selfishness actually comes into the story. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve, despite having everything needed for life, including a face-to-face relationship with God, were lured by the serpent's false promise that they could have *more*. "God knows that when you eat of (the forbidden fruit) your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Humanity's sinful refusal to love, care for and glorify God in simple trust based on His gift of life is the root of the human condition and all the evil in the world.

In contrast, God proved to be divinely *unselfish*, above all in the events of Christmas we just celebrated. Rather than lashing out in anger to destroy His faithless creatures, God sent His Son to become one of us, to suffer and die in our stead, and raised him from the dead in order to forgive our sin and restore us to right relationship with Him. It is only by God's grace, renewed in us each day by the Holy Spirit, that we are freed from our sinful selfishness so that we can, as we should, love, care for and glorify God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.



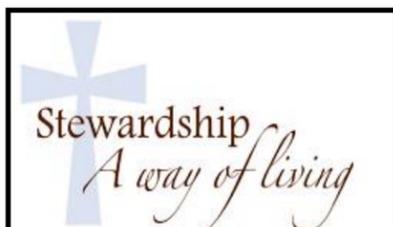
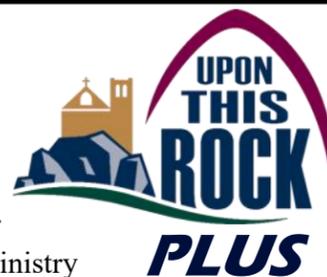
As we say goodbye to 2020 and make our New Year's Resolutions, I have a few of my own that I wanted to share with the whole Faith family. First, let us emerge from the cloudiness and chaos of this past year with a new song of hope and resilience in our hearts. I believe that we can confidently go forth knowing that no matter what troubles our world, nothing will silence the voice of God. We have heard him singing through the sounds of our reborn Ringers of Faith bell-choir, his whisper in the silence of our candle-lit Christmas services, and his laughter in conversations with friends we have not seen in months. Second, let us move forward in change and not in habit. The way we have worshiped and shared the music and Word of God has evolved and adapted through this past year. We can learn and grow from these transformations by remembering that change is constant. The life of worship and music depends on community and fellowship. Look forward to the moment when we can stand once again together in the presence of God and unify our voices in praise. Lastly, let us be grateful for this past year. Remember, God has not put obstacles in your path and given you an excuse to refrain from worship; he has instead provided an opportunity to bring worship into your houses, your families, and your daily life. This past year has allowed me to experience the voice of God through the kindness of neighbors, the ingenuity of the church, and the sounds of creation. I hope you feel inspired by these resolutions of the music department at Faith and use that inspiration to carry you through this new year. Soli deo Gloria.

Onward!

Austin (austinw@faithlc.com/320-587-2093)

Upon This Rock Plus

Upon This Rock *Plus* is a **one-year extension** of the capital campaign that finished up at the end of 2020. These campaigns usually last for three years, but Faith Lutheran has made such great progress on paying the mortgage on the new building that it should be completely paid before the end of 2021. If you have not yet returned a pledge card for Upon This Rock *Plus*, please join other members of Faith in this one last PULL to reach the TARGET of completely paying for this ministry space where we strive to build faith on the ROCK of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your faithful and generous investment in Faith Lutheran Church!



Stewardship Matters

I am sure you all realize that the name of this newsletter, *Faith Matters*, is meant to work in two ways. It highlights various “matters” at Faith Lutheran—issues, events, information—and it also reminds us that faith “matters,” that it makes a difference, indeed makes all the difference.

I am borrowing the same idea for these stewardship notes this year and for the same purpose. The reason for talking about stewardship “matters” in the church is because stewardship really “matters”! It makes a big difference, because the main point of Christian stewardship is not to raise money for the church, but to help us manage faithfully everything God entrusts to us. That includes our bodies, our abilities, our time and the world around us. But it especially involves money and possessions, because they can subtly and easily become our source of trust and confidence in life, rather than God who grants them to us. Stewardship matters, because how we handle our material possessions is a vital part of faithful Christian living.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

THANK YOU! Throughout 2020 members who have qualifying Thrivent policies have directed \$4,738.00 of their *Choice Dollars* to Faith Lutheran Church to help support the mission and ministry of Faith.

If you have a qualifying Thrivent policy and have not yet designated your 2020 *Choice Dollars*, you have until March 31, 2021 to do so. You can make your designation on-line at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836.



Simply Giving

Simply Giving is an automated giving program used by many members of Faith Lutheran for their regular giving. Simply Giving is simple and convenient to use, giving you the satisfaction of giving to God first. It benefits the church by allowing for a more predictable cash flow for budgeting and cultivates consistent giving.

Participants can continue to receive offering envelopes, including those for special offerings. One time and special gifts can also be done through Simply Giving anytime. You can find more information or sign-up for Simply Giving on our website, Faithlc.com, under the tab “Give.” You can also fill out a paper form in the church office.



Christian Leadership Sometimes Calls for Harsh Actions in Places like Ethiopia *Reflections from Pastor Paul*

There is an old saying: “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” For many, many years a power group in the north of Ethiopia, the region of Tigray, held overwhelming power over the rest of the country to the benefit of the few. Finally, people had had enough and voted in a new government led by a Christian Prime Minister.

For the first years of his administration, he sought to be a reconciler and peacemaker. He helped tribal groups to trust one another more and reconciled Ethiopia with a former region of the country that broke away some years previously. He bent over backwards to work with the former government power group, but they only sought to undermine him and promulgate division and fire up former tribal rivalries. They worked under the radar with extremist groups.

Finally, he was led to see that this corrupt cabal had no interest in seeking peace and justice. He called on the military to confront them, force their submission to the rule of law and stop their insurrection. Major progress has been made, but he has had to face international pressure to back down.

In face of this, the more than eight million people of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the national body and its regional leadership, have supported his efforts to bring a lasting peace to this now troubled land. Partners with whom we work express full support for his efforts.

Evil is a reality in this world. When alternatives to military efforts can still be an option, this is desirable. There come times, however, when leadership is hard and needs to be firm.

Your prayers are invited for this war torn country and for the displaced refugees caught in the middle. This is just one example of mission partners facing life and death challenges continuously.

Our Partners in Feeding the Hungry Are Thankful for Your Generosity

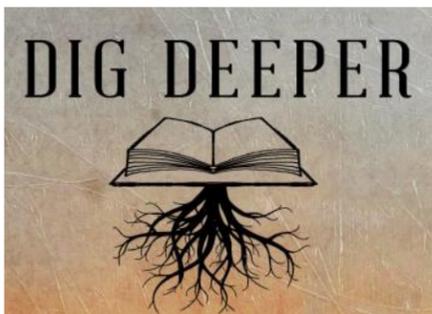
In troubled times, once again FLC members have come through with a marvelous response to our November Hunger Appeal. Through December 9, \$7,300 was given to our partners. Half will go to our partners in India supported by NHMS, 35% will go to providers of food to the needy (primarily through Common Cup), and 15% will be given to feed the hungry in prisons in Madagascar through our partner, Friends of Madagascar Mission. Thank you.

New Hope Mission Society

The New Hope Mission Society, which supports evangelism among Muslims in India and other places, has had a difficult year financially. Income dropped sharply, while expenses continued or even rose. Already small financial reserves were drained at an unsustainable level. Please pray for God to provide the necessary resources to continue this vital mission effort.



One new way to support NHMS is through Thrivent Choice Dollars. The society was recently approved by Thrivent for that program. If you are a qualifying Thrivent policy holder, directing Choice dollars to NHMS is one helpful way to support this mission. Thank you!



“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Sunday morning Digging Deeper
at 9:15 a.m. through February 14.

Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs

St. Paul’s exhortation, “With gratitude in your heart, sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs,” (Colossians 3:16) has characterized Christian worship from the very beginning until now. In addition to the power of music to make emotional connections, hymn lyrics have been a powerful tool for teaching the Christian faith. In this series, we will look at some great teaching hymns that inform our faith as they also feed our souls. Meeting in the Faith Center, starting on January 3.

Developing the Spiritual Life of Children

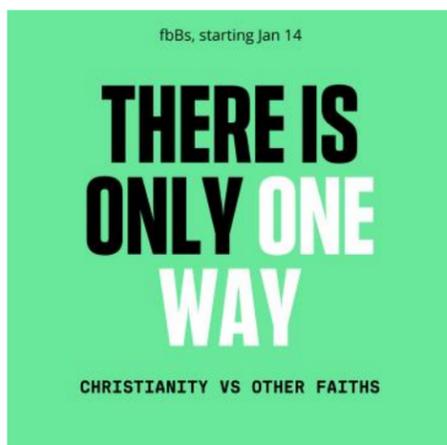
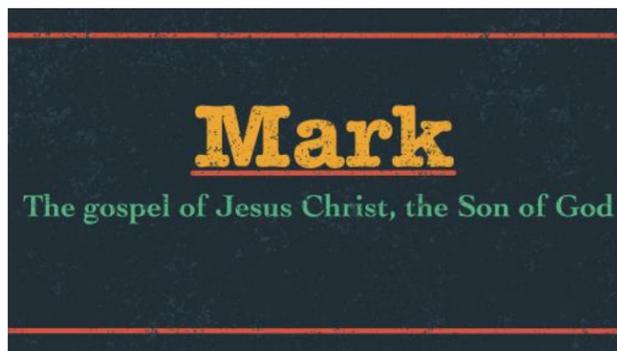
Biblical advice on how to pass on our faith to the next generation.

Passing on our faith to our children is vital. How can we help them want to know Christ? This six-session course will discuss how to make God real to your children by teaching them how to pray, making church a positive experience, helping children make their faith their own, and using stories to make the Bible come alive. Beginning January 10 in the Upstairs Conference Room.

New Monday Morning Study

The Energetic Evangelist: Exploring Mark’s Gospel

Mark’s account of the Gospel is brief and moves at breakneck speed, but it testifies powerfully to “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Most Gospel readings in worship this year will come from Mark. This study will accompany them by exploring the Gospel as a whole. Meeting on Mondays, starting January 11, from 10:30 to noon.



Thursday Night Facebook Bible Study

“There is Only One Way”

Christianity vs. Other Faiths

This new Facebook Bible Study will take a look at other world religions and how they compare to the Christian faith. Learn about the core beliefs of other faiths and gain a better understanding of the True Faith. Starting January 14, join Pastor Dave at 9 p.m. every Thursday night on Facebook Live.

SENIORS SCENE

There isn't much question but that each of us need to learn some new ways to reckon with the separation, disconnectedness and even isolation for some during this pandemic. Many of you have shared some unique and productive ways in which you successfully chase the boredom from your days.



Let me share a few ideas that I've come across. I hope you might be helped, if you need it. Let me know if you personally adapt some of the suggestions.

Some elders have the internet/computers to go to. Many of you tell of Facebook, e-mails, and Face Time calls with your loved ones who are miles away. How wonderful is that! For you who do not have or like computers there is a program that just might interest you. It's called "**Well Connected.**" It's a program that uses telephones, not computers. That may well be more to your liking.

Here's how it works:

Participants (or people interested and wondering if this is for them) call this number: **(877) 797-7299**, toll free.

Someone will answer and tell you how the program works. Essentially, here is how it goes:

- You can join a group of no more than 12 people to talk with.
- A leader guides the conversation.
- You do not need to talk unless you are comfortable doing so. Listening is in.
- --There is no charge.
- You can choose from a vast variety of subjects the group focusses on, like:

Music	Inspiring stories	Where were you when...?
Stories and Prayers	Pets	Humor (jokes)
Trivia Sundays	Bird watching	Get support
Share a gratitude	Play games	Write poetry
Learn a language	Meditation	Go on a virtual tour

The subject is not as important as just having a chance to connect meaningfully with other people in the same boat and feel refreshed by sharing with people you will never see.

If this sounds like something helpful FOR YOU, please give it a try. If you do, let me know how it is going.

WAYS TO HELP EACH OTHER during these pandemic days and months:

- ◆ Call 1 person on a regular basis (daily, weekly—you decide). Be an open-hearted listener. Don't try to fix their problems; just "*give them an ear.*"
- ◆ Send occasional notes/ cards with words of comfort from YOU. They may arrive at a time when strength through someone else is sorely needed.
- ◆ If possible, offer to give concrete help, such as running to the library, grocery store, etc.
- ◆ If possible, call and say: "*Don't worry about dinner. I'm bringing it over at 6:00 p.m.*" Nothing fancy. Just a nice gift from YOU.
- ◆ Offer to read a Bible verse/passage for them over the phone. Talk about what you like about the reading. You can pray a simple prayer if you wish; perhaps about things from your conversation.
- ◆ Share a short devotion from materials you use for yourself.
- ◆ YOUR IDEAS? Share them with us!

God bless your doings for others in His Name.
Pastor Paulus

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Grief Support
Group

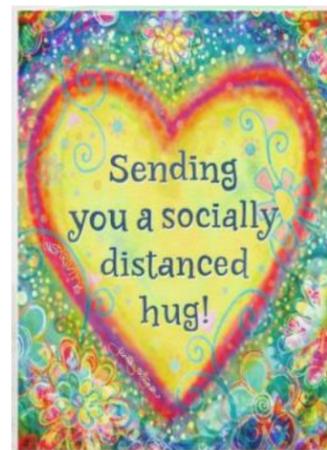


A NEW **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** will begin on **Sunday, January 10**, meeting during the Digging Deeper hour, in the office Conference Room. If you have suffered a death of a loved one, or a “loss” of any kind –job loss, incurable illness, divorce--please consider this support group is for you. Members must consider everything said during the group completely confidential, so that you can share openly the issues that trouble you and need to be worked through. Non-members are welcome too. Conducted by Pastor Paulus and Marsha Schmit. Talk to us if you have any questions. We will meet through February 14.

Caring Card Ministry

The Caring Card Ministry is an outreach program to the people of Faith Lutheran who are going through a transition in life, medical tests, have been recently hospitalized or are suffering from cancer or other illness. Birthday cards are also sent to those 80 and over in the congregation. Each month one person from the Ministry is assigned to send these cards. **We are currently in need of a few more people to come on board.** Please let Marsha know if you are interested!

marshas@faithlc.com or 587-2093. Thank you!



RADIO BROADCAST
KDUZ 1260 AM
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.

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

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FaithLutheranHutchinson

Current Covid-19 Pandemic Protocols

We ask you please to observe the following protocols when coming to worship.

- *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:

Bryant Homes - Maple Plain

Ardell Novotny

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
 Bernice Vorbeck
 Lucille Wehking

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker
Harmony River
 Margaret Alrick
 Ruth Larson
 Mayonne Martin
 Karol Nolte
 Joanne Olesen
 Jean Pittman
 Harriet Thor

Oaks

Marcella Brede
 Beverly Kirchner
 Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

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.

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 front page.