

## Faith Matters - February 2021

# 150+

## THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

### Pastor's Page

Ash Wednesday, which begins the season of Lent, is on February 17 this year. Lent is the poignant time each year when we delve into Jesus' suffering and death for our salvation. That necessarily calls all of us to serious examination of our lives in order to confess the sin that made Jesus' death necessary. Because Lent is such an important time, we add mid-week worship services to our normal Sunday schedule so we can contemplate more deeply the power, wonder and promise of the Gospel.

The theme of our mid-week Lenten services this year will be "The Lord of the Banquet." All four Gospel accounts record that Jesus was often invited to meals and that they provided opportunities for important teaching. Luke, especially, includes frequent banquet settings, so the preaching texts for this series will all come from Luke. Here are the texts and themes:

#### The Lord of the Banquet

Dinner with Levi—Luke 5:27-32

That Woman!—Luke 7:36-50

Jesus Is in the House—Luke 10:38-42

Uncomfortable Conversations—Luke 11:37-54

Coming Home Party—Luke 15:11-32

I'm Coming to Your House Today—Luke 19:1-10

Last Meal—Luke 22:14-30

This year, we are again joining with Christ the King and St. Matthew's in Fernando in a round-robin preaching schedule. We will welcome Pastors Aaron Albrecht, Mark Richardson and Brian Nehring as guest preachers here, while Pastor Dave and I will preach in each of the other congregations one week. We look forward to sharing this holy time with our sister churches.

As in previous years, we will hold two services on Ash Wednesday, at noon and 6:30 p.m. On the following Wednesdays, there will be one service at 6:30 p.m. Then, during Holy Week, we will again have two services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please reserve those times on your calendars now so you can join in the holy journey of Lent, as we follow the Lord of the Banquet to his gruesome and glorious death on the cross for our salvation.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Grorud



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office@faithlc.com

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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*Q: What is a good Bible verse to live by?*

A: The difficulty with this question is not finding an answer, but choosing among all the great options! The first step might be to think more about what it means to “live by” a Bible verse. If we understand that in ethical or behavioral terms, then the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 would be as good a choice as any.

As Christians, however, living in Christ is a matter of faith and freedom. Any ethical direction we draw arises from our new identity in Christ. In other words, the key issue for Christians is who we *are* in Christ and only then do we think about what we should *do* as His people. Given that, I think the best verses to live by are ones that remind us that we are new creatures in Christ, driven to love God and neighbors. Here are some examples:

*“Jesus answered, ‘The first (commandment) is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...all your soul...all your mind and...all your strength.” The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.”* Mark 12:29-31

*“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Galatians 2:19b-20

*“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”* Colossians 3:2-3

*“You also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.”* Romans 6:11-12

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.”* I Corinthians 6:19-20

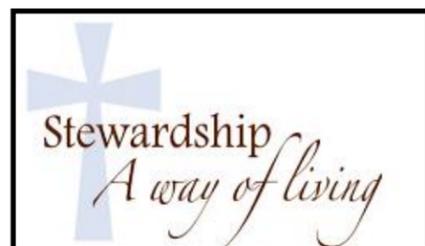
*“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”* Romans 13:10

There are many other verses that proclaim our new life in Christ and direct us to be “little Christs” to our neighbors. Clinging to Christ as our Lord and seeking to love others as He has first loved us is the best, and for Christians the only, way to live.

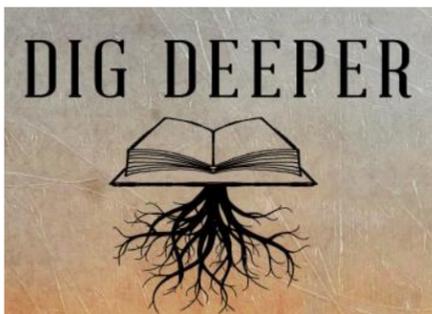
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### **Stewardship Matters**

Faith Lutheran recently received a wonderful bequest from the estate of Dave and Betty Jensen. The Jensens had named the church as their “last child” in their will, giving Faith an equal share of their estate along with their children. Half of the bequest was designated for the capital campaign and should assure that the church can pay off the mortgage this year! The other half was designated for Faith Lutheran’s endowment fund. Dave was an enthusiastic supporter and the long-time treasurer of the endowment. The proceeds of the fund support mission endeavors locally and around the world. In 2020, that amounted to nearly \$42,000!

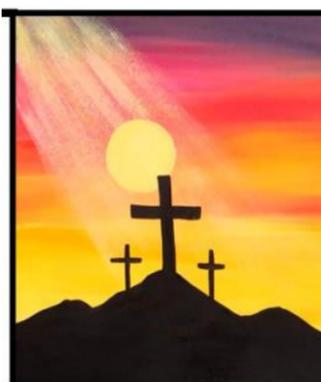


This beautiful gift from Dave and Betty is a living illustration of how stewardship matters. Through careful planning and generous hearts, they have given a timely gift and a perpetual gift for the ministry of this church to the glory of the Lord whom they loved. We are so grateful to Dave and Betty, and rejoice with them as they now enjoy the blessings of the Church triumphant. We encourage other members of Faith to take inspiration from their example and plan out how your estate can also demonstrate that stewardship matters.



**“Faith Seeks Understanding”**  
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

**Sunday morning Digging Deeper at 9:15 a.m.**



**“Explain the Cross for Me”:  
Biblical Themes for Understanding the Crucifixion**

Christians all know and trust that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. Yet, if someone asked, “Explain the cross for me,” many of us might not be sure exactly how to articulate that. Drawing on Fleming Rutledge’s book, *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*, this class will examine several Biblical themes that help to explain why Jesus was crucified and how his death achieved salvation for sinners. Starting February 21 in the Faith Center.

**New Member Orientation**

We will receive new members on Sunday, March 7. Orientation sessions will be held on February 21 and 28, and March 7 during the education hour. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Faith Lutheran, please contact Marsha at 587-2093 or [marshas@faithlc.com](mailto:marshas@faithlc.com).



**Notes from the Music Room**



Greetings, Faith Lutheran Family!

With Faith Singers starting up this month, I thought I would share some inspiration regarding faithful singing. These words come from a seven-point list titled “Directions for Singing” dictated by the theologian and prolific hymn writer, John Wesley (1703-1791). His final point brilliantly captures the ultimate purpose for singing and one that I hold dearly for myself and the music department at Faith: “Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.”

In whatever way you participate in music and worship, let these words be your guide and inspiration to lift your voice to God. “Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts.” Ephesians 5:19

Soli deo Gloria  
Austin

## SENIORS SCENE: “It’s a Stormy Life Right Now”

Who would deny that it’s a “stormy” life out there right now? It is for everyone, but especially for us elders. Some of you are in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. You feel so separated from your family and friends. You can visit them by telephone or Zoom, of course. But as several of you have said, “It’s not like visiting in person, with hugs.” Besides, elders have the highest death rate from Covid. “I keep wondering if I’ll get it,” many have told me.



There’s more to this current “storm.” I’ve heard this. “I just can’t listen to radio or watch TV. It’s all about politics and riots. I get so upset.” It’s a “stormy” life right now.

Where is God? Where is Jesus in all this? We wonder, don’t we?

Some of my favorite Biblical passages dealing with issues like this are the “storm” stories. They’re in all four Gospels. In each recorded story the disciples are caught in vicious storms on the Sea of Galilee. They wonder where Jesus is and why He isn’t helping them. But the joke is on them, as we say. In some of those stories, Jesus is right there with them in the boat—sleeping, no less, so that if they go down, so would Jesus. But their fears have so overtaken them that they wake Him up and ask, “Don’t you care that we might drown?”

In other accounts, Jesus comes walking toward them. They’re scared by that. One commentator says there were stories circulating among sailors that the last thing they would see before going down was a ghost. “It’s a ghost,” they cry out. So much focus is on the miracle of walking on water that one can miss the real point... that Jesus has not forgotten them. He comes to save them. He has the power and means to do so.

What does that mean for YOU?? Why don’t you review each incident in a quiet time, or perhaps with a family member or friend. Don’t hurry through. Just meditate on each story knowing God is telling you something special for these “stormy” times. Maybe you’ll want to write down what comes through to you for a later review.

Here’s where you’ll find the stories:

Matthew 8:18, 23-27

Matthew 14:22-25

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 6:45-51

Luke 8:22-25

John 6:16-21

What does God want you to hear? You’ll see more details, but in general here is what He hopes you glean: In some of the stories, Jesus is right in the boat with you. He’s being Christmas, “Immanuel – God with us,” all over again. God has not forgotten you. You are His child. He adopted you through your Baptism; and has never, ever, let you go; and never will.

In the other stories, He comes walking toward the disciples. Just as they breathed a huge sigh of relief when He said, “**Take heart. Have no fear. It is I,**” so Jesus comes to YOU, sometimes through nursing care people, Covid tests and vaccines. All of these are His creations and His servants to bring Himself TO YOU!

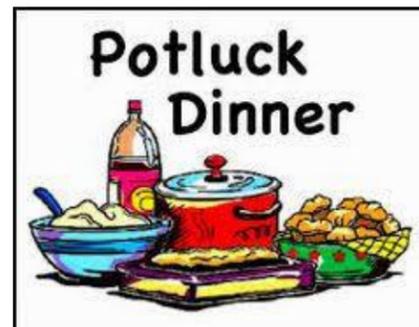
God is always there, wherever YOU are. So talk to Him. Ask Him to calm YOUR fears, just like He calmed the stormy waters. Ask Him to help YOU trust Him and His constant care every day and night. He loves to spend time with YOU and share your burdens.

Remember to thank Him again and again for His forgiveness of everything wrong in our lives. Jesus died and rose to give YOU that.

Where’s God during Covid? He’s with YOU, that’s where. Thanks be to God!

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**WHEN IS POTLUCK MEETING AGAIN?** At this point, we don’t know, but we’re cautiously trying to figure that out. We’ll let you know. Watch for announcements.

*Pastor Paulus Pilgrim*





### A Call for Members to Continue Supplying Food for the Blessing Box

In these challenging times, it is clear that our witness to those facing nutrition challenges is surely strengthened through members faithfully sharing non-perishable foods for our Blessing Box. Staff and others see frequent visits made by folks to see if there is food there for them. In these winter months, this does mean being careful to bring food that will not be hurt by freezing temperatures.

The congregation, through the Church in the World ministry team, will supplement members giving as needed. The council has approved a modest monthly amount to be sure a steady supply of nourishing food is available.



Thank you for all you do.  
Pastor Paul Knudson



**Happy Anniversary Pastor Scott Grorud!**  
For the last 15 years, countless Crossways classes have been taught, books have been purchased (and some even read!), great sermons have been preached, grammar has been corrected, and lives have been blessed by our gifted pastor.



**Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return.** Genesis 3:19  
Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2021. Faith Lutheran will have two services with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.  
Mid-week Lenten services will continue for the following five week's on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. (*Note for confirmation students: You will meet with your small groups after each weeks Lenten service.*)  
Holy Week will follow beginning with Palm Sunday on March 28, Maundy Thursday (including first communion for 6th-grade students) on April 1, Good Friday on April 2, and Easter on April 4.

### Caution

Recently a vehicle in the FLC parking lot was broken into during worship. For your protection, please do not leave valuables in your vehicle or in coat pockets left hanging in the gathering spaces.

**CAUTION**  
**DO NOT LEAVE**  
**VALUABLES IN**  
**YOUR VEHICLE**



### 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!

**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.**

Find us on the Web  
@ FaithLC.com



Facebook.com/  
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)  
 Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny Rutledge & 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:

**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
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Austin Willhite, Director of Music & Worship	austinw@faithlc.com	
Kristen Matthews, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	kristenm@faithlc.com	
Laura Weikle, Director of Children & Family Ministry	lauraw@faithlc.com	
Sara Wegner, 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
- Cokato Nursing Home**  
Clara Becker
- Harmony River**  
Margaret Alrick  
Ruth Larson  
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

Faith Lutheran Church  
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Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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OUR MISSION IS:  
**BUILDING FAITH**  
*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,  
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*  
EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

- F**OLLOW JESUS
- A**NNOUNCE THE GOSPEL
- I**NVITE ALL PEOPLE
- T**EACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH
- H**ELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

**Newsletter via  
USPS or E-mail?**

Would you like to receive your monthly Faith Matters newsletter via e-mail? It saves the church postage and printing costs, and you get to see it in color every month! You can request a change to e-mailed newsletters by sending an e-mail to [office@faithlc.com](mailto:office@faithlc.com) requesting the change.

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