

Faith Matters - March 2021

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastor's Page



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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.

Last March, we splurged and took a family trip to Los Angeles over spring break. We did all the typical Los Angeles things. We went to Hollywood Boulevard, Disneyland, the beach, ate good food, went to another beach, joined a gang, made a movie... you know, So-Cal stuff.

And then we watched the world shut down.

First, Disneyland shut down—just two days after we'd been there! Then my oldest daughter got the notification that her college was going entirely on-line. Then my youngest two were informed that their spring break was extended a week as the public schools dealt with the virus. My friend's church in Los Angeles switched to streaming.

Everything changed.

That was a year ago. Can you believe it!? One year of pandemic world. One year of social distancing, masking up, Zoom meetings, hybrid everything, lockdowns, restrictions, vaccines, flattening the curve, and adjusting on the fly.

The good news is that we're adaptable. We've made it a whole year. We haven't always liked it, but we've made it. We've adjusted. It's been painful, trying, and compromising. Some of us have lost loved ones, jobs, and opportunities; but we've made it.

We've made it as a church. We have adjusted on the fly to offer

livestreams. We figured out how to do children's, youth, and adult education in person and on-line. We've taught old dogs new tricks, creating tech-savvy online participants. We managed to do VBS, a mission trip, and Easter morning in new ways. We've added new members and our giving was strong throughout the whole year! Now, after a whole year of this, my message to you is this:

COME BACK.

As soon as you can, come back to church. You need to come back to church. Your Faith Family needs you to come back to church. Your kids need to come back to church. We miss you! Worship with the communion of saints is essential.

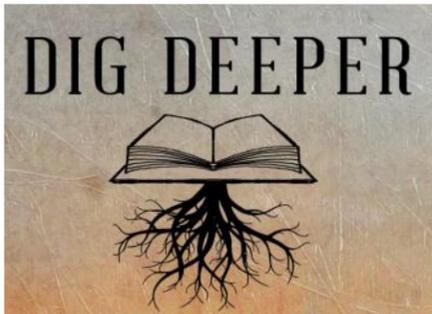
Don't get me wrong. I am so thankful that we have been able to offer an on-line option. I give thanks to God that you have been able to worship via the radio, HCVN, and Facebook Live! I pray you have been able to stay connected and hear the Word through those means. Praise God!

At the same time, as our Lord observed, "it is not good for man to be alone." We are created for community, specifically, for Christian community. A community in which we hear his Word together, receive the sacraments together, and share in the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints. We need you. You need us. We need each other!

Continued on page 3

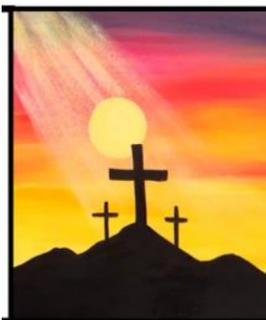
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“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

**Sunday morning Digging Deeper
at 9:15 a.m. through March 28**

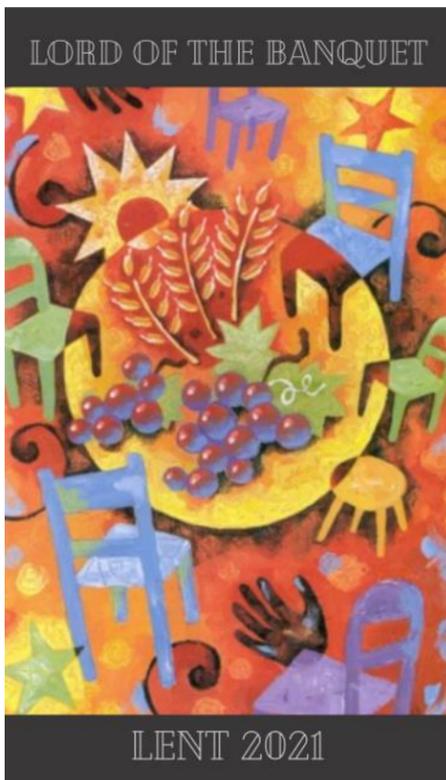
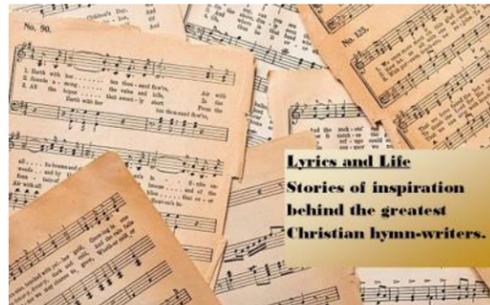


**“Explain the Cross for Me”:
Biblical Themes for Understanding the Crucifixion**

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. Meets in the Faith Center and live on Facebook.

Lyrics and Life: Stories of Inspiration Behind the Greatest Christian Hymn-writers

Traditional hymns are integral to the foundation on which we build our faith. This series will feature the lives of prominent hymn-writers who penned inspiring verses through times of hardship and great joy. Digging deeper into their lives and work will allow us to connect with faithful generations who have gone before us. Led by Austin Willhite in the music room.



LENT 2021 ~ “Lord of the Banquet”

**February 24 – March 24 mid-week Lenten services at 6:30 p.m.
every Wednesday, with confirmation small groups following.**

February 24: “I’m Coming to Your House Today” ~ Luke 19:1-10
Pastor Mark Richardson

March 3: “That Woman!” ~ Luke 7:36-50 ~ Pastor Aaron Albrecht

March 10: “Jesus Is in the House” ~ Luke 10:38-42
Pastor Scott Grorud

March 17: “Uncomfortable Conversations” ~ Luke 11:37-54
Pastor Brian Nehring

March 24: “Dinner with Levi” ~ Luke 5:27-32 ~ Pastor Dave Wollan

April 1 (Concluding on Maundy Thursday including
First Communion): “Last Meal” ~ Luke 22:14-30

Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

Please don't take this as any kind of shaming. If you have been staying away, I trust that it is for good reasons! Instead, take this as me saying, "We miss you and we need you." Take this as a little push to make worship essential. Take this as an invitation!

We're doing our best to roll out the red carpet for you. We are serious about the CDC recommendations and hopeful for the vaccine. We want you back, and are taking steps to make sure you're comfortable.

So come back. Come back as soon as you're able. Get your shots, wear your mask, and put on your Sunday best! We love you, we miss you, and we can't wait to see you again!

See you in church (soon)!

Pastor Dave

SENIORS' SCENE

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

"We're back in the saddle again!" The Seniors' Potluck saddle that is. Yay!!

Well...not completely. We will meet on **Thursday, March 25**, beginning at **1:00 p.m.** in the **Faith Center**—that is, if you want to. Our potluck steering committee has met and decided we should go ahead and meet in March. It will be a potluck meeting without the potluck meal.

We are aware that some of you really don't think it's a good thing for you and that's just fine. Come when you think your health, immune system and sense of safety are ready for that kind of fellowship. We encourage you to make your own decision on what's best for you. You will be respected for it. The March 25 meeting will include a quick survey on how we should plan for the future. So talk it over with your "potluck friends" and ask them if they would like to see us plan two more meetings for this year, on April 29 and May 27.

For those who choose to come, we will ask you to follow the usual precautions: **wear a mask, stay six**

feet apart (that's the hardest one to maintain), and **keep your hands sanitized**. With those things in place, it should be as safe as we can possibly make it.



In the event the Covid 19 scene cranks up again, we can cancel the meeting. For everyone's sake, let's hope Covid keeps lessening.

The program on March 25 will be a travelogue by Jan Kreie and Dorothy Desens, who toured Peru. That should be interesting. Besides seeing the country itself via PowerPoint, there will be a **"missions"** twist as well. Steve and Jen Freund are missionaries in Peru and we can share the latest on their ministries in Lima, Peru.

We will have coffee, water and a packaged treat for all—that will be as close to potluck as we can get right now.

SEE YOU AT POTLUCK!! Welcome back.



COMMON CUP MINISTRIES: Weekend Backpack Program

CCM has once again started the weekend backpack program in our local schools. If you are able, we ask you please to purchase fruit/applesauce cups and place in our CCM tote in the reception office or by the steps up to the Sanctuary. **THANK YOU** for your continued support of CCM!

Geri Johnson, Faith Lutheran Representative



Acting on our Lord's Literal Commissions

Mission Reflections from Pastor Paul

“Go therefore and make disciples of **all nations.**” Matthew 28:19a
“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the **ends of the earth.**”

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection and before his ascension to heaven, he met with his followers and gave them clear marching orders. He commissioned his disciples—that includes us—to make disciples of Him among all the nations of the earth. They were to be his witnesses in their own Jerusalems, beginning with their loved ones to be sure, but then they were to move out to people far and wide.

In our troubled lives, families, and now nation, we may be overwhelmed by issues right at our own doorsteps. We indeed need to bear witness to those closest to us as to who this Jesus Christ is for us and for them. This is a huge challenge today. We may feel that for now we need to be focused simply on those directly before us.

We, however, know we live in a global village today. We have to close our eyes and ears so as not to hear the cries of God's lost children in faraway places. We may not mean to harden our hearts, but too easily this can happen to us personally and as Christian communities.

Thankfully, we as a congregation keep seeking to hear and respond to our Lord's commission to us and His children's cries in places like India, Ethiopia, Estonia and many other places. These children of God are also our brothers and sisters. Pray with me that our eyes will always see, our ears hear, and our hearts be open to our Lord's commissions noted above. We are blessed to be a blessing.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2021

Did you know Congress recently passed a new Act that could affect your charitable giving this year?

The CARES Act and Charitable Giving

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (H.R. 133) has three important provisions that may positively impact your charitable giving through the end of the year!

This Act, which was signed into law in December 2020, provided an additional injection of stimulus into the economy, including relief for businesses and non-profits. There were also specific provisions that were extended from the CARES Act of March 2020 for those who support their favorite charities.

Specifically, these three provisions may impact your giving through the end of calendar year 2021.

1. You may deduct cash donations up to 100% of adjusted gross income through December 31, 2021, if you itemize your deductions. The CARES Act provision for cash donations was set to expire on December 31, 2020, but has been extended. The limit for cash contributions was 60% of adjusted gross income prior to both acts being passed, which may increase the opportunity to give more this year to help offset income.
2. For those who do not itemize, the above-the-line deduction was extended through December 31, 2021 as well, with an added boost. Non-itemizers can now deduct \$300 per filer (\$600 for joint filers) as an above-the-line deduction. This is an increase from the CARES act which was limited to a \$300 deduction per tax return, including joint filers.
3. The Consolidated Appropriations Act extended giving incentives for corporations, as well. Through 2021, corporations can give up to 25% of their taxable income through cash donations or food inventory. This is an increase from the 10% deduction allowed against taxable income prior to these acts being passed.

Contact your financial planner or tax advisor for more information.



Q: Where did the whole idea of Lent originate?

A: The name Lent comes from an old word for spring, although that word originally meant “longer.” Since daylight lasts longer as we move into spring, it came to be used as the name of the season. Lent was applied to this time of the church year because we know that Jesus was crucified and raised at the time of Passover, which always occurs in the spring.

In the early centuries of Christianity (and in some churches still today), new converts were commonly baptized during the Easter Vigil service on the evening before Easter Sunday. Their final preparation and examination took place during the 40 days prior. Over time, those 40 days of preparation were applied to all Christians as a special time of self-examination and repentance to prepare for celebrating the saving events of Mandy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. At that point, Lent became a regular season on the church calendar.

The 40 days of Lent reflect the 40-day length of Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness, which itself echoed the 40 years that the Israelites wandered through the wilderness of Sinai. Sundays in Lent, however, are not counted among the 40 days, because every Sunday—even in Lent—is considered to be a “little Easter.”

Because of Lent’s emphasis on repentance of sins, many Christian churches do not declare the forgiveness of sins between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. We do not follow that practice at Faith Lutheran, mostly because we sinners need constant assurance that God forgives us, but also because forgiveness is not a kind of “reward” for repenting “enough” or in the “right” way. In fact, we believe the logic works the other way around: the promise that God freely forgives us for Jesus’ sake heightens the awareness of our sin and drives us to confess and repent.

Stewardship Matters

The word “stewardship” means the authority and the responsibility to manage or care for something that belongs to someone else. When we talk about stewardship in the Church, it reminds us that life itself, along with our property, time, money, abilities, relationships and everything else about us, do not belong to us. They are gifts that God entrusts to us as long as we live in this world, but at the time of death, we leave it all behind and someone else takes over the management of it. Recognizing that we are stewards of what actually belongs to God changes our perspective on our possessions. It reminds us to put and keep our trust in God, and not anything that God gives us. It helps us to be less attached to the things of this world, even as we enjoy the blessings God provides. It frees us to be confident, content and generous, knowing that God will provide every good thing that we need.



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Let's "Grow" our Food Donations! March Food Drive

During the month of March, the Congregational Life Ministry Team is asking everyone to participate in the March Spring Food Drive. Look for the spring display located in the southeast entrance (Door 2) and bring your items to share with others in our community. All food collected will be brought to the food shelf in time for it to receive additional grant funds. (see info below) Thank you for helping to provide food for those in need in Hutchinson and the area especially during this time!

**ALL FOOD & FINANCIAL SUPPORT RECEIVED
BY 1:00 P.M. MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
IS ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDS**



Notes from the Music Room

Happy March, Faith Family!

I am especially looking forward to this month as we move through Lent. There are many musical offerings planned and opportunities to be involved in worship. Furthermore, I am eager to share my Digging Deeper class with you. I invite you to join me in discussion about this often-overlooked part of music. I hope my class will be a source of inspiration and growth for you during this passion season. See the description on page 2.

Onward!

Austin



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 3rd 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
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 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 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

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Becker

Harmony River

Margaret Alrick
 Marcella Brede
 Ruth Larson
 Karol Nolte
 Joanne Olesen
 Jean Pittman
 Harriet Thor

Oaks

Beverly Kirchner
 Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon
 Harold (Swede) Sandgren

Woodstone

Dodie Fenske
 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:

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.