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The Values of Aging

Bless the Years Sunday, April 25, 2021

He was not a skilled carpenter, with a shop full of tools; 83-year old Louis didn't have money for that. But when I visited him one day, he delighted in telling me about his coffee table. He found it in a friend's grove, in the country. It was old and covered with crusted varnish, but now, it was beautiful. It had some of the most intricate inlaid woods. Louis was grateful for the time and energy he spent in restoring that table. His life was energized!

I'm thinking the same is true with a lot of aging people I know. They have the usual characteristics we connect with aging—wrinkled skin, greying hair, arthritic joints and halting gait. Add hearing and vision loss, chronic illnesses and there's a long list of things we haven't begun to mention; like dementia and caregiving.

But just as with Louis' old coffee table, once we peel away those aging losses and declines, we may well find what author Roland Martinson calls "resilient elders." That is, people in their later years who rise above the perils aging brings.

He points out that elderhood used to mean inactivity and waiting for "your time." In what he calls "*the changing face of aging*," he notes that advanced medications, fitness programs and more have older people seeking active and quality lives through their 70's, 80's, and even 90's. "*Elders play more, travel more, exercise more*," Martinson writes. All of this causes economists to address elders financial needs. Home builders try to keep up with construction for elders' moving to larger communities, closer to clinics, grocery stores and senior centers.

Sometimes people refer to elderhood as the "Golden Years." Most seniors I know don't like that label. Some with chronic illness or caring for a spouse with dementia are even angered by the term. But there is something "golden" in elders who use their God-given gifts to serve others.

Consider Lottie, for example. She lovingly cared for her disabled husband. When he died, she went into deep grief. I wondered if she would survive. But as her grief emotions got lighter, she gave our church and the community something no one else could—egg coffee. No one made tasty egg coffee like she did. It was her calling, and she gave it freely and jubilantly.

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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.

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Paul was another one. He also heavily grieved the loss of his spouse. But God had endowed him with a story-telling gift, which he gave to all who would listen. He told me how his grand children loved how he made an adventure out of telling about stones or twigs he found in his back yard. God revealed Himself and His wonderful world through Paul's stories. We asked him to be our Bible story teller for Vacation Bible School. The whole community got word of "Paul's Story Booth" from the kids who flocked to hear him. He spent the whole year planning for the next VBS.

What about YOU? What gifts has God given you? Simple or advanced, everyone is endowed with some unique talent. You may have to listen to others to discover those gifts. Charlie fixed kids' bikes for free. Harold mended screens and storm windows for those who couldn't afford taking them to a repair place. Gina made quilts and afghans for elderly people. Clara taught cooking classes to young girls in her neighborhood. Whatever it is, simple or great,

when you give it away, it will be "gold" to someone, and it will energize you. It will give a quality to your later years you might not have imagined.

Above all, quality senior years come from knowing there is One above all others Who will help you through all trials and losses. Our Lord God of love and mercy walks with you every day you live. He fills you with above-human strength, peace, purpose, and forgiveness. He keeps reminding you through worship, prayer and His Word, that your whole life is not here. The best is yet to come, in the glorious place He has prepared for you. He has received that place in heaven for you through Jesus' death and resurrection. Young or old, God Himself will walk you through the "*valley of the shadow of death*" some day, into His full presence when this life is over.

Thanks to You, O Lord!! There ARE actually values in aging!!

SENIORS' SCENE

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

By the time you read this, we will have met together for a Seniors Potluck meeting, on Thursday, March 25. We will have taken a trip to Peru via a travelogue by Jan Kreie and Dorothy Desens and, along with that, a look at Steven and Jen Freund's mission activity in Lima, Peru.

Yes, it was with simple treats, not a potluck meal. I know, you had hopes we could get back to the hotdishes, the herring, the deviled eggs and the sweets table. But the fellowship is so important we decided to go ahead without that.

We will also have done a survey about meetings in the future. The steering committee will take your survey results for future planning. Watch for announcements.

Last year we missed out on **Bless The Years Sunday**. That will be resumed this year on **Sunday, April 25**. That is scheduled a week earlier than usual, due to other factors. The services will focus on the needs and contributions of our elders in the congregation. The Scripture texts for the day are about Jesus, our Good Shepherd, guiding seniors (and believers of all ages) throughout their whole life, and on into eternal life. Austin, our music director, will use his skills to lead music groups



and the congregation in singing "*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*." You will witness seniors ushering, reading lessons, even serving as acolytes.

That's a brief preview. Watch for more. God bless our senior servants of Jesus Christ!

Pastor Paulus

Do you know . . .

who made the cross that we raise over the altar each year for Lent and Easter? As we are looking through our history, we have realized that we do not have that information recorded and would love to archive it. If you know who made and donated this well known and loved cross, please contact the church office.

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THE LIFE OF FAITH
Past Present Future
1870-2020



SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

Our Spotlight on Seniors this year features Pastor Paulus and Gladys Pilgrim. I am pleased to share a small portion of their story with you.

Pastor Paulus was born in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. He had one sister and three brothers. Before graduating from Hector High School, he and his family moved four times. In case you wonder why his family moved so much, it was because his father was a pastor, as was his grandfather, an uncle and a cousin. Asking him if he always knew he was going to be a pastor with this family history, he stated it wasn't until three years into parish ministry that he knew he had made the right decision. It was a calling from God and not just fulfilling a family dream. After high school, Pastor Paulus attended Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, and Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.



Born in Nebraska, Gladys was a farmer's daughter. She attended country school through eighth grade and graduated from Auburn, Nebraska, High School. She has two brothers. After high school, she also attended Wartburg College, pursuing a degree as a Parish Worker. When I asked Gladys if she always planned on marrying a pastor she smiled and said, "No."

Gladys put her education on hold until after their family was older and then went back to school. She received her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education, and later a Masters Degree in Special Education. For the next 25 years, she worked in the teaching and administration field.

The first two parishes the Pilgrims served were small churches in Nebraska. As the congregation's only pastor, the challenges and responsibilities were many, but they both agreed that the people of those parishes were encouraging and became their second family. In 1986, after 26 years serving four congregations, Pastor Paulus became a nursing home chaplain. For 13 years he served the residents in the nursing home, providing everything they were accustomed to in their home congregation—Sunday morning worship, special holiday services, Bible studies, counseling and more. The main difference was that he went to the residents in the nursing home instead of them coming to the church. Twenty-two years ago, it seemed like it was time to retire, so they left the chaplaincy and moved to Hutchinson, making Faith Lutheran their church home. But retirement wasn't in the cards, and Paulus had a new title of Visitation Pastor. I asked him about the next retirement and he just smiled.

I asked if there was a memory or two they could share that stands out in their faith journey. Both recalled the people of the congregations they served who were encouraging and kind. They treated them like family; and even after they left the parish, if a visit could be arranged, were welcomed with open arms. Paulus recalls the joy he felt at seeing parishioners find their way back to their Savior and Lord. It is amazing to see how God works that out.

In his 60 years of ministry, some things have changed. He became aware that many of his colleagues and his former church body were losing sight of the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ as their main focus for preaching, teaching and pastoral care. For many pastors, pastoral care was not much different from secular counseling. That is why he feels so blessed to be part of Faith Lutheran here, where ministry is still centered in God's grace in Jesus.

Gladys noted that, in the early years of being a pastor's wife, she was expected to be very visible to the congregation. She also commented that some weeks Paulus would spend up to five evenings either visiting parishioners or attending meetings. (Checking the church calendar I'm going to say that might still be the case at Faith.)

We talked a little about the last 12 months at Faith, and when things open up again, whether we will return to the old ways? Live-streaming and Zoom meetings have been a wonderful fill-in, but we all agreed that the person-to-person contact is so very important to the life of the church. It is impossible to receive communion over a computer.

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Paulus and Gladys are the parents of three children, have four grandchildren and one great grandson. During our entire visit, I witnessed the looks they shared as they remembered their last 60 years together. It is a true partnership they have, supporting each other in good times and in not-so-good times, and as they both stated: their faith keeps growing, because if it doesn't grow it dies.

Congratulations to you both on the amazing partnership you have, and thank you for all you have contributed to our church these past 22 years. Wishing you many more years of memories.

Submitted by Virginia Brodd


Greetings Friends!

I am currently writing this edition of *Faith Matters* on the first day of 60-degree weather for 2021. Now, my favorite season for many reasons is autumn, but when I look out the window and see the once dormant vegetation soaking up the sun, I am only excited for the arrival of spring. Much like the grass and the trees waiting for the sun to bring them back to life, through Easter, April also brings us a Son for which we are given new life. I want to share an excerpt of a poem written by C.F. Alexander titled *All Thing Bright and Beautiful*.

“All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. Each little flower that opens, Each little bird that sings, He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.”

Despite the mud and slush that often accompanies spring, let us be inspired by the beauty that emerges from beneath, trusting that as God gives each little thing new life, we receive that life, too. If you want to hear the rest of this poem, come listen to the choir sing this wonderful piece in the Sundays following Easter.

Blessings, Austin



Faith Lutheran Church Rummage Sale Returns!

We are excited to plan this year's sale after not being able to hold one last year. The sale will be April 22 and 23, with Saturday being designated as the clean-up day.

Donations can be dropped off at the church Monday - Wednesday, April 19-21, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Please note:** NO computers, TV's, large appliances or large exercise equipment can be accepted.



The sale will run Thursday, April 22 from 2 - 7 p.m. and Friday, April 23 from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., with the bag sale from 4-8 p.m.

Due to the pandemic precautions, we have opted NOT to have the bistro this year, so volunteers will be encouraged to pack a lunch.

There will be no sign up sheet, so please call Bobbi Knudson at 587-2227 to let her know when you are available to help.

We are excited and going to have a great time together, so plan now on how you will help with this amazing fundraiser.



What is missions training like in a city like Nuremberg, Germany?

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) exists in many forms all over the world (1500+ locations in 180+ nations). In Nuremberg, one of our main focusses has been on training, and since our first year in Nuremberg (2014) we've been developing the concept "the city is our classroom." This got a whole new meaning in 2020!

I've seen many YWAM bases in picturesque rural towns and villages. That's where I did my first training. The feeling there is peaceful and serene, a retreat from typical day-to-day life, and a great place to have a focused season with God. YWAM Nuremberg doesn't look like that. We're in the city, we hear the trams and trains and emergency vehicles multiple times a day, hundreds of people walk past our building each day and not just Germans, either. We are located in the most diverse neighborhood in the city and it's awesome! Turkey, Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Syria, Russia, Spain...we've had visitors from India and Afghanistan both say it feels like home in our neighborhood.

Why do I think this is the perfect place for missions training? We come face-to-face with the nations every day. Our neighbors come from all sorts of different walks of life and different understandings of the world. We have ample opportunity to interact with people. There are many active churches in our city, people to collaborate with, and places of worship to connect new believers into communities. There is an international airport in Nuremberg—a huge plus for when we start traveling again!

For our students, being in a city means practicing what they learn in lectures later that week or even over lunch break.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our trainings and outreaches have looked different. For a moment, it seemed like everything that we were used to doing would stop for months, if not years: bringing in young people from all over the world for missions training and going out to other countries for months at a time on outreach. Not only were we confined to our nation, but for some months to our city.

The size of our schools have been smaller and less international (although we have an Austrian in with the Germans, so still international, right?) and of course international outreach trips were off the table for 2020. But this season of restriction really expanded that view of "the city as our classroom." By the end of the first training, our students had not only joined several local ministries reaching out each week, but developed and implemented their own one-time outreach projects. By pairing lecture and outreach throughout the training, we were able to be more practical, have more debrief, and see lots of growth as the weeks went by. Our students were able to learn and experience both the *nations* piece and the *neighbor* piece of the Great Commission, to provide for the body (physical), soul (emotional/connection), and spirit (salvation/freedom) needs of people, and to explore their personal calling, whether that be as a full-time missionary or as an active Christian reaching out in their own communities as they return home.

As hectic as city life can be, it's the perfect environment for what we do as YWAM Nuremberg.

- Katie Weikle

Note: Katie, daughter of Owen and Maria, grew up at Faith Lutheran. The church helps to support Katie's work as part of its mission outreach.





Q: I noticed a couple of places in my Bible where whole verses are missing (Mark 7:16, Acts 28:29). Why would they have been left out?

A: Most likely, those verses were not left out of the text, but at one point were added in to it. Here’s how. Before the printing press was invented around A.D. 1450, the Bible was copied by hand, often in a scriptorium where a speaker would read the text and a roomful of copyists would all write it down at the same time.

It is no surprise that many small discrepancies worked their way into those copies. For example, what scholars call a gloss occurred when one copyist jotted a comment in the margin of his manuscript. When that manuscript was then copied, the marginal note was added into the text, rather than kept as just a comment. Other kinds of errors have also been identified, such as accidentally skipping a line in the original text or confusing similar words in one paragraph.

Hundreds of New Testament manuscripts survive and one key job for scholars is to determine which of them are closest to the original text. One general rule is that older manuscripts are likely to be more accurate than later ones, since there was less time for errors to creep in. In a few cases, whole verses, such as Mark 7:16, appear in later manuscripts but not in earlier ones. Far more often, a phrase or a few words seem to have been added.

The King James translation of the Bible in 1611 was based on a common Greek text of the New Testament called the Textus Receptus. Since then, many older and more reliable manuscripts have been found. They show that many additions had been drawn into the Textus Receptus. The Bible’s chapters and verses, however, had long since been established and it would have been terribly confusing to re-number all the verses when an addition was removed. Instead, a few verses and a larger number of phrases that appeared in earlier translations have been dropped from more modern ones. The end result is that recent translations of the Bible are likely closer to the original writings than any of the earlier ones.

Please note that none of these textual variants change the meaning of any passage in the Bible or affect any Christian belief. In fact, all of them put together have no impact on the message of the New Testament. Examining these textual discrepancies is important for Biblical scholarship, but it has no effect on the Word of God as we hear it, read it and believe it.



Upon This Rock Capital Campaign

“We’re done!” We hope you have heard that good news about the mortgage loan on the new addition to Faith’s building. After just 10 years of a 25-year loan, the entire \$3.2 million has been paid. Paying off the loan so soon has saved the church hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest. Two generous bequests accelerated that process, but the vast majority of the loan was covered by steady, generous and faithful support from members of Faith Lutheran Church. We are so grateful to all of you and are especially grateful to God for providing the resources that made those gifts possible.

“So now what?” The building project is only half-done. That is why the nursery, music room and main restrooms are all so far from the current sanctuary; they are oriented toward a new sanctuary that does not yet exist. Faith’s leaders will take time to consider carefully when and how to proceed with Phase II of the building project. In any case, paying for Phase I so quickly opens the door to pursuing Phase II years earlier than we had ever dreamed possible. We welcome your ideas and input as we begin that process.

In the meantime, we ask you, as you are able, to continue giving to the Upon This Rock *Plus* capital campaign. This interim time between Phases I and II is an ideal time to gather resources for the Phase II planning process and to reduce whatever amount may need to be borrowed in the future. As always, Faith’s leaders and staff are committed to careful stewardship of the gifts you commit to the mission and ministry of Faith Lutheran Church.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 28

Normal Sunday service times (8 a.m. live on KDUZ and 10:10 Sanctuary live on Facebook) Children are invited to participate in the palm processional at the beginning of each service.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Support the FLYouth who will be going to Savannah, GA by staying after worship or coming early to enjoy breakfast served by the youth from 8:45-11:30 a.m. A free-will offering will be accepted to support this trip.

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Services will be at 6 p.m. (live on KDUZ) and 7:30 p.m.; both will be streamed live on Facebook. These services will include first communion and will conclude our Lenten series with the “Last Meal” ~ Luke 22:14-30

Good Friday, April 2

Services will be at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. Both will be live streamed on Facebook and the 6:30 service will also be live on KDUZ.

Easter Sunday, April 4

All services will be live on Facebook

6 a.m. Sunrise Service led by the FLYouth

8 a.m. traditional service live on KDUZ

9:30 a.m. simultaneous services in the sanctuary and Foundation

11 a.m. contemporary Foundation style service in the sanctuary

Overflow seating will be available in the Faith Center for all Holy Week services to allow room for social distance.

“Faith Seeks Understanding” Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

Are You Smarter Than A Heretic?

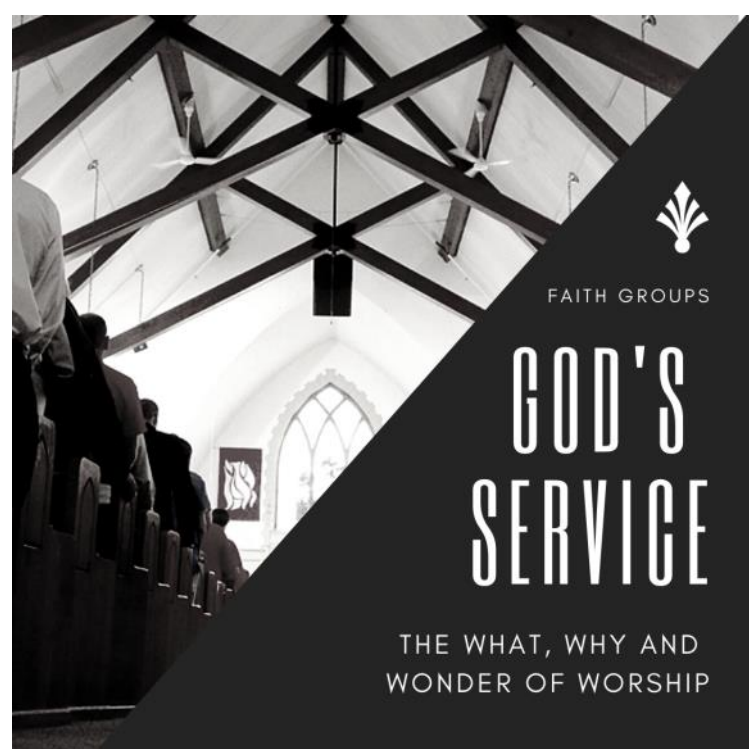
This new Facebook Bible Study will sharpen your understanding of the true Christian faith by examining the false teachings of famous heresies throughout church history. See if you can ace the interactive quiz each Thursday night and avoid the same mistakes made by heretics in the past! Join Pastor Dave Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Facebook Live, starting April 15.



New Faith Groups Study

A new Faith Groups small-group study will begin right after Easter. *God’s Service: the What, Why and Wonder of Christian Worship* will delve into the central activity in our Christian lives, the worship service. What do the various parts of the service mean? Why do we do them? How do they work? What is the significance of this weekly gathering of God’s people around Word and sacrament?

We hope this study will enhance your understanding and appreciation of worship. We hope the small-group experience will strengthen connections within the family of Faith. If you have been part of a Faith Group before, mark your calendar to begin again starting the week of April 11. If you have not participated in a Faith Group before, this is the perfect time to join one or start a new one. The process is relaxed and comfortable, and the benefits are many. For more information, talk to Marsha Schmit.





Spring Cleaning at St. Morten’s Cemetery

Calling all outdoor handymen! We are looking for some able-bodied folks to come out to the cemetery on Saturday April 24, at 9 a.m. to help with trimming and cleaning up the area. If we get enough hands, the job should be done by noon.

If the weather does not cooperate that day, we will plan for the following Saturday.

So, bring your work gloves and trimming equipment if you have it, and if not, just bring yourself.

Please call the church office to let us know you will be helping so if we do need to cancel, we know whom to contact.



Host Homes Needed!

Sunday, August 8 - Thursday, August 12

This summer FLC will have 4-6 counselors from Green Lake Bible Camp come to Hutchinson to lead our kids in a day camp at home.

If you are able to host a counselor or two by providing housing for the week as well as evening dinners each day (or host a dinner one night), please contact Laura for more information.



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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.
- *Social distancing is requested and overflow worship spaces are provided to allow for necessary spacing.

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:

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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
Jean Pittman
Harriet Thor

Oaks

Beverly Kirchner

Prairie Senior Cottages

Pat Fimon
Harold (Swede) Sandgren

Woodstone

Dodie Fenske
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.

