

Faith Matters - June 2021

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastors' Page



335 Main St. S.
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093
Email:
office@faithlc.com

Happy Summer, Faith Family!

I always love the summer months at Faith. There are a ton of children's and youth activities, worship in Library Square, and semi-continuous Epistle lessons!

Ok, I realize I may have lost you with that third one. I'm guessing it didn't make your list of Faith summer highlights, but it makes mine! You see, in the summer months, the lectionary calendar—which is the 3-year schedule of readings we follow for Sunday worship—serves up semi-continuous readings from one of the New Testament Epistles.

It just so happens that, this summer, during the five-weeks of Pastor Scott's sabbatical, the second reading comes from the heart of St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. That means we are going to kick off our summer of worship with a June sermon series called:

The Cruciform Life

The Radical, Gospel-Charged Life of II Corinthians

Second Corinthians is St. Paul's most autobiographical letter, as the apostle shares his struggles, his vulnerabilities, and his weaknesses. At the same time, Paul shares how the radical grace of God transforms him and enables him to live a cruciform life—a life of selfless giving and service.

Second Corinthians was (obviously) not Paul's first correspondence with

the church in Corinth. Perhaps less obviously, it probably wasn't Paul's second correspondence with them, either! The letter in the Bible known as First Corinthians was probably more like Paul's second correspondence to the church, as he responded to many of the issues raised in their first round of communication. It's very possible that Second Corinthians is a combination of several different correspondences Paul sent after First Corinthians. Regardless, in both letters that we do have, it is clear that Paul had a complicated relationship with the Christians in Corinth. He had to fight hard to keep them grounded in the truth, as they lived in a world that constantly attacked that truth.

Sound familiar? We, too, live in a diverse and morally compromised world. We, too, struggle to discern between competing world views and deceptive teaching. We have experienced the struggle of what it means to live in the Land of the Free vs what it means to be Free in Christ. We grapple with how to confront opposing viewpoints and challenges to the faith.

So this month, let's let St. Paul instruct us. Let's listen to the lengths he went to for this problem-child church, because of the lengths Christ went for him. Let's sit at the apostle's feet to learn, grow, and pray. And together, let's learn what it is to live the Cruciform Life.

I can't wait!

See you in church, Pastor Dave

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 are the Lutheran Confessions? Are they different from the creeds or confessing our sins?

A: Martin Luther was a brilliant theologian and Biblical scholar, but he never wrote a systematic or comprehensive account of what we call Lutheran theology. For that and other reasons, a long period of conflict and disagreement broke out among Lutherans after his death in 1546. Various factions all claimed to represent

the “true” legacy of Luther, but disputes within the Lutheran churches and serious opponents outside of them threatened to destroy the whole movement.

In the late 1570’s, an effort began to settle all these conflicts and establish a standard for what could be considered faithful Lutheran theology. A compromise document, called The Formula of Concord (concordia is the Latin word for harmony), was finally approved in 1580 and did manage to bring peace—if not an end to the Lutheran penchant for theological squabbling!

As part of the process, the decision was made to print the Formula of Concord with a collection of other core Lutheran documents. That collection is called The Book of Concord. Among those other documents included in it are the Augsburg Confession, Luther’s Small Catechism and Large Catechism and the Smalcald Articles. The whole collection is often called the Lutheran Confessions, meaning statements of our faith. They do not hold the same authority as the Bible, but do define Lutheran understandings of Christian doctrine.

Unfortunately, the Book of Concord has remained entirely unknown to many Lutherans—perhaps most today—even though they are supposed to define the faith as it is preached and taught in their churches. Part of that is because the documents are not easy to read, but the fact that many pastors have never attempted to introduce them to their congregations is also a factor. Despite the challenges they pose, the Lutheran Confessions are worth the effort it takes to understand them. If you would like to learn more about these important resources, just ask!

Pastor Scott’s Sabbatical

Faith Lutheran Church generously grants its pastors a one-month sabbatical every five years. The name sabbatical, which comes from sabbath, points to its purpose—to provide a longer time of refreshment, rest and a chance to pursue projects that are hard to tackle in the normal schedule of parish life. A sabbatical is not extra vacation, but an opportunity for a change of pace and a different type of work that will contribute to the church’s ministry.



I was eligible to take a sabbatical last year, but, like so many other events, it was disrupted by the pandemic. Instead, I will be on sabbatical this year from May 31 to July 4 (four weeks of sabbatical plus one week of vacation). I plan to work on an updated history book of the congregation for the 150th Anniversary celebration this fall and to work through some of my many books that I otherwise rarely have time to read. I am not planning to travel anywhere, so you may see me around town or at worship services, but I will not be working at the church during this time.

I am so grateful to the congregation for this sabbatical. It will be a blessing to step out of the usual rhythm of the ministry and to enrich myself by learning from great authors. See you again in July!

Faith Pen Pals

Six months ago, the Congregational Life Team invited you to be a part of “Faith Pen Pals.” We currently have 28 people involved who have been connecting to their “Pen Pal” via letters and have heard good things! We are starting round two and invite you to sign up at church this month or by calling Marsha at 587-2093. **Please sign up by June 10 to take part in this next round!**



Blessing Box Continues to Meet Immediate Needs

Members are invited to continue to bring items for the Blessing Box to meet basic hunger needs of folk in our community. It is being put to use every day. While Common Cup Ministries and the McLeod County Food Shelf meet needs in a more orderly way, our witness to the needy is extended by supplying our Blessing Box, one of at least three in Hutchinson. At present, we do not need to worry about items freezing. This offers opportunities to broaden food stuffs given.



Personal Story Deepens Our Identification of the Horrific Situation in India

Abdul Messiah, who administers the mission in India supported by the New Hope Mission Society, shares his personal experience that seriously threatened his life. While he thought he was suffering some after effects of a minor surgery, he found himself overwhelmed by the Covid-19 virus. He was fast losing his capacity to breathe when he arrived in Bangalore to see his wife and children. It became very serious, and Dr. Usha, his wife, was able to get him into a government hospital where she works. He was there for two weeks, very ill. We are all thankful that he came through this serious situation. Our hearts go out to Abdul, but also to the countless people in India who do not have access either to a hospital or to the special oxygen needed.



Welcome Owen Weikle to the Faith Lutheran Staff

We are excited to welcome Owen Weikle, a long-time member of Faith, to the church staff as the part-time Custodial Services Coordinator. He will coordinate cleaning, maintenance and set-up tasks for the congregation.

Thank you Brodds and the Spit ‘n’ Shine Crew

Many thanks to Jim and Virginia Brodd and the wonderful Spit ‘n’ Shine crew who have steadfastly attended to these tasks for more than a decade. Owen will still need volunteers to help maintain the building, so watch for opportunities to plug in.



The FLC staff served the Spit ‘n’ Shine crew a thank you brunch.



Rummage Sale Thank You!

A big thank you to the **many** people who helped with the rummage sale by setting up tables, hauling clothes racks from the garage, and items out from the crawl space. Then hauling everything back to where it come from. Thanks to those who filled bags for the DAV, hauled things to Goodwill, helped with vacuuming and setting the Sunday school rooms back up. Also, thanks to those who donated items, ran carts of donated items up to the third floor, set up items in the various rooms made to look so inviting. You can see that it takes many willing volunteers to make the sale a success. Several organizations are always invited to get free items the last two hours. This year, the sale made a profit of \$4,000.10, of which thirty percent goes to the church. The rest goes to kitchen needs and a variety of charity organizations. Thank you all!





Wednesday EVENING Prayer

Wednesday’s prayer time will be moving from morning to evening during the month of June. Join us in-person in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for a half-hour of prayer and scripture. Everyone is welcome!

Greetings Faith Family,

This month, I want publicly to lift the efforts and gifts of Ringers of Faith, Faith Singers, and Middle School Bells from this past season. Rehearsal certainly did not look typical this year, with social distancing, masks, and last-minute changes. However, we prevailed! Constantly faced with many closures and cancellations throughout the year, Ringers returned stronger than ever. I am humbly grateful for the opportunity to have led these wonderful ensembles and I cannot wait to see what they are capable of without restrictions! As always, all are welcome to participate. Look for details closer to fall. For now, we will relax and enjoy summer break.



Gracious God, you have filled our lives with blessings beyond measure. Thank you for the gift of music and for the musicians of the church. Fill our hearts with the desire to sing your praise, so that all the earth may hear of your saving love. All in Jesus name. Amen.

Soli deo Gloria! Austin



Outdoor Worship Returns

Faith Lutheran Church will again offer worship outside at Library Square this summer, along with the 8 a.m. First Word Service in the sanctuary. Dust off your lawn chair, shake out a blanket, bring the family and join worship at Library Square beginning Sunday, May 30, at 10:10 a.m. Worship will continue with an outside option through September 12. In case of bad weather, please listen to KDUZ at 8 a.m. and watch the FLC Facebook page for information regarding moving inside to the sanctuary if necessary.



Stewardship Matters

Faith Lutheran’s 150th anniversary celebration was cut short by Covid-19 restrictions last year, but it is too important a milestone not to celebrate. Plans are underway for a more focused celebration this fall and looking back over the history of a congregation like Faith Lutheran brought a different aspect of stewardship to mind.

Too often, the concept of stewardship is limited to giving—whether time, ability or money—to support the ministry of a congregation. It is much broader than that, however. It is a call to manage faithfully everything that God entrusts to us. That includes even a church like Faith. While God has promised to

sustain the Church, the Body of Christ, He calls all of us to join in the task in the congregations where we are placed. We share responsibility for making sure each new generation hears the Gospel, is nurtured in faith and equipped to carry on the church’s ministry after us.

One particular aspect of that stewardship is identifying, training and supporting new pastors. There is a huge and growing need for faithful pastors in our church association, LCMC. Please pray that God will continue to raise up faithful servants, seek ways to support seminarians in their education, and help identify people with gifts for ordained ministry. That is a really vital way that stewardship matters!

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 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:



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

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.

| Faith Lutheran Church | | |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|
| INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY | | |
| 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com | | |
| Pastors | | |
| Scott Grorud | 320-587-0171 (home) | scottg@faithlc.com |
| 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 |
| Staff | | |
| Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism | marshas@faithlc.com | |
| Austin Willhite, Director of Music & Worship | austinw@faithlc.com | |
| Kristen Matthews, Director of Youth & Family Ministry | kristenm@faithlc.com | |
| Laura Stowman, Director of Children & Family Ministry | lauras@faithlc.com | |
| Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator | finco@faithlc.com | |
| Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant | wendym@faithlc.com | |
| Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator | 320-587-2093 | |

- 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
Willie Johnson (rehab)
Ruth Larson
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen
Fran Lundeen
Karol Nolte
Jean Pittman
Harriet Thor

Oaks
Marcella Brede
Beverly Kirchner

Prairie Senior Cottages
Pat Fimon
Harold (Swede) Sandgren

Woodstone
Dodie Fenske
Betty Garberich
Gerry Grams

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
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.

