

**Faith Matters - July 2021**  
**150**  
**THE LIFE OF FAITH**  
*Past Present Future*  
 1870-2020  
**Pastors' Page**

It's hard to think about July and not think about July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day. It's hard not to think about Independence Day and not think about freedom. July, Independence Day, and freedom all just seem to go hand in hand.

Our Founding Fathers, against all odds, fought tooth and nail for the independence of this new nation. They founded this nation on the concept of freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, these are all calling cards of the Founder's foundation. As a citizen of this great country, I am thankful for these freedoms, and the liberties that come with being an American. I probably take them a bit for granted, but I try to appreciate these liberties and give thanks for those who fought to establish and preserve them.

But what do these freedoms and liberties mean for us as Christians? And more than that, how do we as Christians understand freedom?

As Americans, I believe it is important to safeguard and fight for the freedoms we enjoy- even when it means supporting something we don't necessarily like. At the same time, I think we get in trouble when we justify our actions by declaring, "It's a free country," as if our freedoms give us the right to run roughshod over others. That's when our freedoms might run in conflict with our faith.

Jesus said in John 8:36, "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." But what does that mean? Free to do whatever you want? St.

Paul echoes Jesus' declaration in Galatians 5:1, "For freedom Christ has set us free." But later on in the chapter, in verse 13, Paul clarifies, "you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Perhaps that's the key issue: How do we use our freedom?

In his brilliant treatise called *The Freedom of a Christian*, Martin Luther offered a paradoxical statement on freedom and service. "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Christians are free- free from sin, death, and the devil. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus! There is incredible and absolute freedom in that! Praise the Lord!

But here's the key: because of that freedom, we can subject ourselves to all. We can serve others, bind ourselves to them in Christian love. Christ has set us free, now we are free to love and serve.

So, this July 4th, celebrate your freedom! Give thanks for it! Fight for it! But then use it. Use your freedom to love and serve others. Use your freedom to even set aside your own self-interest and rights to look after the freedom of others- not unlike our Founding Fathers did for us, and certainly like our Savior did for us!

Let Freedom Ring!  
 See you in church!  
 Pastor Dave



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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.

**Inside this issue:**

Meet Owen Weikle	2
Missions	3
150th Anniversary	3
Upcoming Events	4
Staff List/Prayer Requests	5
And More	
Calendar	Insert
Children, Youth & Family	Insert

## Getting to Know the Staff

By Marsha Schmit

Recently I asked our new Custodial Services Coordinator, Owen Weikle, a little about himself. He told me that he grew up in Fairfax on a farm with three brothers and three sisters. He said he learned his work ethic from his dad. (You may have seen him picking up trash around town, and now he gets to clean up AND get paid!)

After high school, Owen went to Mankato State University and then went to work for Suttle Apparatus in Hector. He loved his job in engineering - designing products, creating and maintaining drawings and documentation. Living and working in Hector also gave him the opportunity to meet his future wife, Maria Hauer, on a blind date. Marrying in 1990, Owen and Maria then moved to Hutchinson and started their family. Most of you probably know their daughters, Katie and Laura, of whom they are very proud. Katie lives in Nuremberg Germany and works for YWAM. Laura (Stowman) is our Children's Director here at Faith.

Owen comes from a Norwegian family. One funny story he tells is that although they didn't speak Norwegian in his family, his uncles sometimes switched to Norwegian on the phone when they didn't want the neighbor eavesdropping on the party-line (Ha!). His mom and her cousin made the lefse for their church's annual Christmas bazaar, and she made sure Owen and his siblings got to help. In fact, when each of them got married, they each received a lefse griddle, turning stick, rolling pin and cloth. What a great legacy and gift!

After working for thirty-four years at Suttle, the company was sold to one of their competitors in British Columbia so Owen was out of a job. He started to help with the Spit & Shine crew to help "fill part of his long week" while receiving severance pay from the company. This spring, the Spit & Shiners decided it was time for them to retire as they had been keeping up the church on a weekly basis for over ten years! It was decided to hire someone part-time, and Owen decided he could "fit into the job" and applied.

When I asked Owen what he likes most about the job, he said, "I do like cleaning up a space and leaving it in better condition whether people notice it or not." (He even mentioned that he thinks it is even better when people DON'T notice!) What he likes least? He's not sure yet but does know that finding liquids in the garbage and recycling cans is

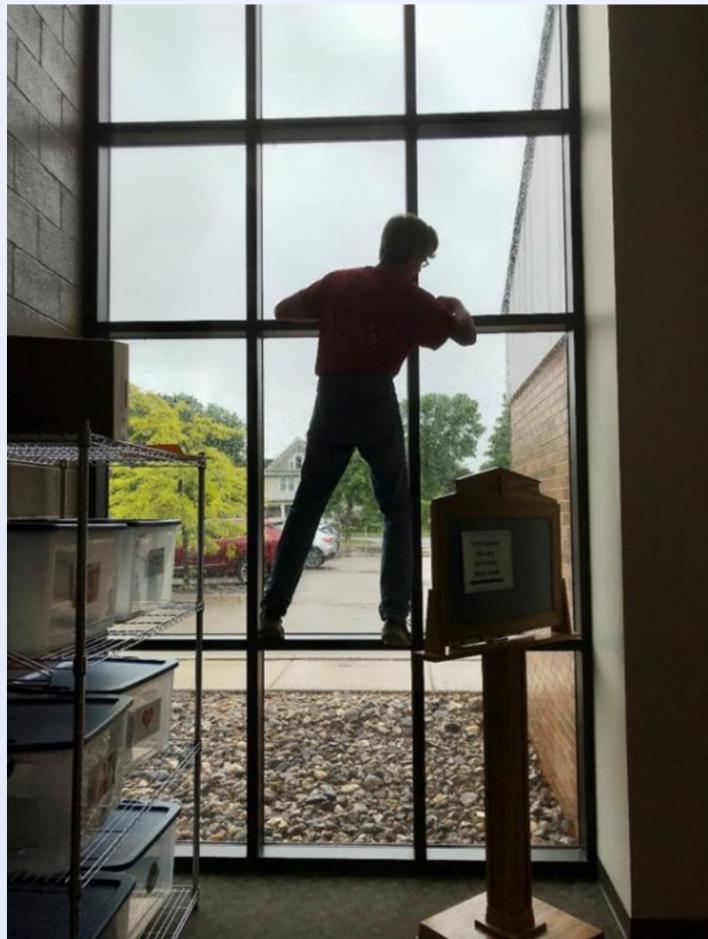
something he doesn't like. We'll work on that Owen...

As far as long-term, he thinks he can do this job until he's as old as some of the Spit & Shiners. He's had his career in engineering and doesn't want to start over at a different company thinking he would only compare it to his former one. Owen showed his sense of humor when he mentioned that he takes after his Norwegian-speaking uncle Elmer who was the custodian at their church in Fairfax ("minus the cigarette smoking and maybe a little less sarcastic" he noted).

Something I (Marsha) always want to know, is a staff member's favorite Bible Verse. Owen's is:

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand."* Psalm 37:23 & 24 (KJV)

Thank you, Owen! It's so nice to have you working with us!



**"Only a Superhero can replace Spit & Shine"**



## When You Can't Keep Your Mouth Shut Or Sit on Your Duff, But...

*Mission Reflections from Pastor Paul Knudson*

One of the overwhelming joys of my life in the past 14 years of so called “retirement” continues to be being drawn into the joy of witnessing how so many sinner/saints cannot shut up. After being made new through the Good News of God’s grace in Jesus Christ, they just have to get up off their duffs and go and tell.

Too often this not shutting up and not hunkering down is done at great cost. What is amazing, however, is that this sharing of the Good News brings so much joy into their lives that they are willing to pay any price for the privilege of speaking out and going out into dangerous territory to bear witness to Jesus Christ.

To be sure these witnesses are not without their own weaknesses and sinfulness. Tribal hatreds raise their ugly voices too often in ways that darkens the witness. This hatred is present in places like Ethiopia these days. Our partners there keep spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in life changing ways and do so joyfully. Yet we learn that at times the history of conflicts among people who are different from one another is shameful. Our partners find they need to flee to the throne of mercy, be forgiven, and then go out with spirits transformed.

Could it be that both these joys of witness and our own hatreds get intertwined with our joys turned into crying out for mercy to be poured out upon us? Forgiven, however, we go forth. We cannot keep our mouths shut or sit on our duffs. There is the Good News of Jesus Christ to be shared in word and deed.

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**THE LIFE OF FAITH**  
*Past Present Future*  
1870-2020

### “The Rock”

Have you seen “The Rock” recently?

So many people have been a part of getting it in place and completed as part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

If you see the following people make sure to tell them thank you!

- ◆ Carlie Karg found the perfect rock.
- ◆ Kurt Hjerpe and his crew transported and placed the rock, and boy was that a job!
- ◆ Dean Bertram of Innovative Foam, Inc. and Matt Cheney of Redline Systems, Inc. worked on the design for the rock and the finished iron work.
- ◆ Jim Brodd and Carlie attached the letters to the rock.

**FUN FACT:** The FAITH letters were made by longtime member of Faith Lutheran, Charlie Thor. They were originally used on the educational wing of the church. When the last remodel was done, they were removed, and luckily, someone saved them and put them into storage so that they could be repurposed for this project.



### **Garden Tour and Luncheon**

*Put on by the Faith Lutheran Church Women*

This exciting event is returning this year on Saturday, July 10, 2021 with a self-guided tour from 10 a.m.—1 p.m. through five different gardens. A light lunch consisting of croissants, chicken salad, fruit and more will be served at Faith Lutheran from 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Tickets are on sale in the church office through July 5. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. With your ticket you will receive an information packet on each of the gardens as well as a map and directions to each location.

### **Host Homes Needed!**

*Sunday, August 8 - Thursday, August 12*

This summer, FLC will have six counselors from Green Lake Bible Camp come to Hutchinson to lead our kids in a day camp adventure at Faith Lutheran Church.

If you are able to host a counselor or two by providing housing for the week, or by providing the evening meal one night, please contact Laura.



### **Back to School Supply Drive (Common Cup Ministry)**

Common Cup Ministry is collecting donations for the 2021 school year already. CCM is requesting members of FLC to donate 25 backpacks, 25 dry-erase marker sets (4/set), and 50 Highlighters (yellow). Donations can be brought to the church office by August 6.

### **Sundaes on a Sunday**

Sunday, July 25 following the outdoor worship service at Library Square.

It is always a treat to delve into a cool dish of ice cream on a warm day.

The Congregational Life Team is bringing back it's annual Ice Cream Social and invites you to join them for a cool treat and time to visit with your faith family. Earlier worshipers are invited to come by for a sweet treat too!

*(Rain make up date is August 1)*



### **Caregiver Support Group**



Are you responsible for caring for a loved one at home or as the main contact for someone in a care facility? The Faith Lutheran Church Pastoral Care Team knows what a challenge it can be and how many things you may be negotiating or juggling to make sure your loved one has the best care possible. No one should have to navigate all of these things alone. That is why Pastor Paulus Pilgrim and Marsha Schmit started a monthly caregiver support group. This group meets on the last Thursday of each month from 4—5 p.m. and is open to members of Faith and non-members alike. For more information or to join this confidential group please contact Pr. Paulus or Marsha at 320-587-2093.

# 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 Curtiss)  
 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:



Facebook.com/  
FaithLutheranHutchinson

**RADIO BROADCAST**  
**KDUZ 1260 AM**  
**SUNDAYS 8 A.M.**

**TV BROADCAST**  
**CABLE CH. 10**  
**SUNDAYS 10 A.M.**  
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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 Bekker

**Harmony River**  
Margaret Alrick  
LeRoy Barrick  
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  
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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.