

Faith Matters - November 2021

150

THE LIFE OF FAITH

Past Present Future

1870-2020

Pastors' Page



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Greetings, Saints!

The month of November is perhaps best known as a month of thanksgiving, as it ends with that popular holiday. Beyond that it is probably also known for elections, hunting, Black Friday, and not shaving. But let's not forget another important holiday, or Holy Day! November begins with All Saints Day! November first is the Feast of All Saints, and the first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday. So the sanctuary will be decked in white, we'll light candles and ring bells to remember the deceased and the newly baptized, and we'll sing that beautiful triumphant hymn, *For All the Saints*.

But what's it all about? Why do we have a day to remember saints? We're not Roman Catholic!

This is a good question. Of course we're not Catholic. We don't believe that a person is only a saint long after they are dead, if they lived extraordinary lives and performed miracles. As Lutherans, we confess the communion of saints, but believe that to include any baptized Christian. You and I are saints because the Holy Spirit is in us and makes us sanctified- or holy. All Saints Day is a day to remember and celebrate this reality, and pay special attention to the saints we have lost by death and the saints we have gained by baptism.

At the same time, there is nothing wrong with recognizing exceptional saints from our past and present- individuals through whom God has made a significant impact for the sake of His kingdom. As Lutherans, we can look back and be inspired by many saints that have gone before us. Here are a few:

*Saint Martin Luther:* The originator of our Lutheran faith was a towering intellect, a faithful defender of the faith, and a tireless worker in reforming the church. He was also a terrific sinner, and we don't overlook that, but we give thanks for the ways God worked through this sinner!

*Saint Dietrich Bonhoeffer:* This German pastor was not only an absolutely brilliant theologian, but also was a part of the resistance against Nazi Germany. He refused to go along with the capitulating church of that day, and instead helped to organize the Confessing Church, and underground church movement resisting the evil happening in Germany. He was martyred in a concentration camp just weeks before it was liberated.

*Saint Gerhard Forde:* This theologian and seminary professor has left a lasting legacy of pastors boldly proclaiming the radical word of the Lord. Forde's recapturing of Luther's radical understanding of the power of the preached word has been highly influential for Faith's pastors.

*Saint Leonard and Saint Mabel:* These beloved members of Faith Lutheran, through gracious generosity and fervent faith, helped to make some significant ministry initiatives possible.

Continued on page 8

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.  
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

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**Faith Lutheran Church’s *November Hunger Appeal*  
Blessings Flow From the Abundance of the Heart**

Giving can be done without joy but under obligation. Joy comes to all of us when our Lord Jesus has filled our hearts with an abundance of sacrificial love that overflows in generosity. This happens in many ways. In November we, at Faith Lutheran Church, have chosen to focus a measure of our heartfelt abundance in giving generously through our annual *Hunger Appeal*.

Each year we have been lifting up a minimum goal of raising \$5,000 that the hungry may be fed through trusted mission agencies we know are trustworthy and maximize dollars given so that hungry people will be fed. We focus a major portion of our giving through international partners who are committed to feeding body and soul. In these days this can, and often does, mean the difference between life and death. We give our offerings also to our trusted partner in this community, Common Cup Ministries.



Our two international mission partners are, New Hope Mission Society and Friends of Madagascar Mission. Pastor K.K. Alavi and Dr. Abdul Messiah, in their leading of our NHMS outreach in southern India, are being challenged to reach out to those in the community of faith and others in their immediate area. Friends of Madagascar Mission work in one of the most impoverished nations on earth. Providing food for those in prison and in hospitals (the responsibility of impoverished families) continues to challenge FOMM and funds given are critical to their witness through the Lutheran Church of Madagascar.

Common Cup Ministries relies on congregations like FLC to support their ministries of caring. One of their ways of meeting the pressing needs of the poor and needy in our community is through providing food to them. Our Hunger Appeal offering is a valued resource as they obtain food to meet these needs.

This year your Church in the World Team has chosen to support these mission partners as follows:  
International Partners: 65% of total giving, with 45% going to NHMS, and 20% to FOMM  
Local Partner: 35% to Common Cup Ministries

**You can support the *Hunger Appeal* using envelopes marked *Hunger Appeal*, *Mission Sunday*, or *Thanksgiving*. You can also donate by making an extra online donation. Raising more than the minimum goal of \$5,000 will bless more people in each of these categories.**



**Our Partnership with the Augustana District Gives Us Another Cause for Rejoicing**  
*A brief word from Pastor Paul*

The Augustana District partners with the North Central Ethiopia Synod of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. This partnership, in normal times, focuses on a monthly training program of the synod’s pastors and evangelists. Currently there is a bloody civil war going on that is ravaging the area in which the NCES is present. This has created life and death challenges to congregations of the synod. In the past weeks congregations and members of the AD have responded generously. As a result, the following has been sent to NCES and has been a major blessing to all there.



NCES CRISIS FUND: \$26,350  
Training program: \$2,400  
Proving airfare to the synod president  
For international mission leader conference: \$1,200

When we come together, even a modestly sized AD provides great encouragement and support to our partners in mission.





**As part of the anniversary celebration the anniversary committee hosted a Past and Present Staff dinner on Saturday, Oct. 16**

Front left: Donnette Garberich, Nancy Greve, Joy Cheney, Shirley Holtz, Sue Graff, Kayleen Jensen, Kacie (Lange) Fahey, Marsha Schmit, Gladys Nissen, Diane Pedersen, Lara Liepold, Dan Drahos  
 Middle left: Pr. Randy Freund, Donna Jannicke, Kathy McDonald, Wendy Magruder, Joy Bennett, Barb Hedin, Laura (Weikle) Stowman, Kristen Matthews, Austin Willhite  
 Back left: Pr. Dave Wollan, Pr. Paulus Pilgrim, Pr. Paul Knudson, Dave Skaar, Owen Weikle, Jeff Amundson, Pr. Dave Christensen and Pr. Scott Grorud

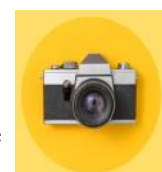
Wow! What a great anniversary celebration we had, huh? It was so much fun celebrating 150+ years of God's faithfulness to this congregation and giving thanks for all the work he has done in and through the family of Faith through all the years! Thanks for celebrating with us, and a very special thank you to all of those who helped to make it happen. The Anniversary Team put a lot of time and effort over the last two years, and our Council and Ministry Teams also went above and beyond. Lastly, thanks to our hard working staff for dedicating a lot of time and effort in addition to their usual busy Fall schedules. Here's to another 150 years!

**THANK YOU**  
**Volunteers!**  
 We couldn't do it without you



### **Photo Directory and Picture Update**

Thank you to all of you (well over 300 households) who participated in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the photo directory! We are hoping to have the directory completed and available for pickup soon.



Because we had the directory done by an individual photographer this time, one person was responsible for all of the editing, book formatting, etc. on his own. If you have registered on his website to see your pictures and have not received a code yet, please be patient. After you register, Thomas will send you an e-mail with a link and code to see your pictures once he gets them uploaded. However, we are asking for your patience as he has focused on the directory first, then he will get to the individual pictures.

For those of you without computer access, the church will assist you in getting your pictures once they are all done. Watch the bulletin announcements for how you can get help with this in the next few weeks.

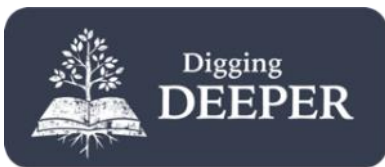


The **FLC HISTORY BOOKS** are now available and can be picked up in the church office. A free will donation of \$2 is suggested.

### **FLC Painting**

It is not too late to order your copy of the Faith Lutheran Church painting. You can see a copy of the painting and order yours in the church office.





**“Faith Seeks Understanding”**  
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults  
Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

### **“This is the Message: Light, Life, and Love in 1 John”**

This class will walk chapter by chapter through the book of First John, examining the epistle’s dominate themes and witness to Christ. Join Pastor Scott and Pastor Dave as we journey together through this rich book of the Bible, and learn the light, life, and love of Christ and in Christ. Meeting in the Faith Center.

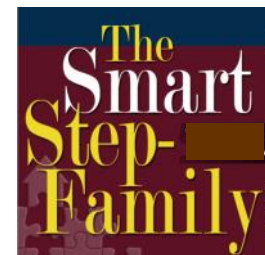


### **New Members**

New Members will be received on Sunday, November 21 with orientation sessions on November 7, 14 and 21 during the education hour. If you or someone you know are interested in joining, please contact Marsha at 587-2093 or marshas@faithlc.com.

### **The Smart Step-Family**

Are you trying to parent (or considering parenting) step-children? Are you trying to navigate co-parenting? Are you trying to “blend” your children into a new relationship? Do you have step-grandchildren? All relationships have challenges, but those in “step” relationships have many unique challenges. This series by Ron Deal looks at how to navigate some of those storms that are unique in step-family situations. This small group will meet in the office conference room on Sunday’s at 9:15 a.m. for a brief video and discussion. If you or someone you know is interested in participating via zoom, please contact the church office at 320-587-2093.



### **Happy November Faith friends!**

After our busy anniversary festivities last month, we would be crazy not to take a break. ....well, call me crazy! This month is packed full of church festivals like All Saints and Christ the King Sunday and holidays like Thanksgiving and the start of Advent. The ensembles are preparing music for all of these special occasions that you won’t want to miss.



Another exciting opportunity will be starting this month. The long-awaited kick-off of the **Faith Lutheran Concert Series!** Here is what to look forward to in the next couple of months:

November 21 – Thanksgiving organ concert featuring Austin Willhite

December 5 – Christmas harp concert featuring Reuben Correra

December 22 – Christmas choir concert featuring Faith Singers

Mark your calendars for these special events now and watch for more details to come. You won’t want to miss these marvelous music events!

Blessings to you this month and may it be filled with much to be thankful for. Soli deo Gloria!

Onward,  
Austin



### Faith Forward: 150 for the Next 150

At the special meeting on September 26, the congregation approved an effort to try to raise \$150,000 in special gifts between now and the end of the year in celebration of Faith Lutheran's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Watch for more information soon on this visionary project and how you can be a part of it. It is a great opportunity to carry the heritage of Faith Lutheran that we are celebrating into the future of the Church.

### Stewardship Matters

For many years, Faith Lutheran has managed to cover its annual expenses only because of massive offerings in November and December. For all those years, we have also hoped that the church could begin to balance offerings throughout the year so that the big year-end push would not be necessary and the church would not be so dependent on that late surge.



Well, hallelujah! It appears that day has finally arrived. As of this writing, the church has had to use very little of the cash cushion it carried into 2021 to meet General Fund expenses! The offering trend that was so strong during the pandemic shutdown has continued into this year. **Thanks be to God and thanks to all of you who have supported Faith's ministry so steadfastly and generously!**

To be honest, though, that also creates a bit of a dilemma. While the need for a big year-end push seems blessedly unlikely this year, Faith Lutheran has generally received 20-25% of its annual income in November and December each year. We will still need significant giving through the end of the year in order not to fall short of meeting our expenses this year and to avoid slipping backward. As we thank God for Faith's much-improved finances, please continue to give generously as the Lord first blesses you to do so. In gratitude to God, let's continue to demonstrate that stewardship matters!

### Fellowship Against Cancer



The Faith Lutheran Church Pastoral Care team realizes the challenges related to cancer, so together with a group that began during Digging Deeper, they have decided to continue to meet as a support group. This group will continue to go through several topics related to those recently diagnosed, in treatment, in recovery, or embracing the new normal. We will offer shared experiences, general tips and advice, and support.

Through faith and love we will embrace this time together. We will meet from 9-10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month, in the main floor conference room. A zoom option will be available for those unable to attend in person. If you are interested in this group, please contact Jeff or the Pastoral Care team.

Jeff Amundson  
Pastor Paulus Pilgrim  
Marsha Schmit

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SENIORS’ SCENE

“Oh, how wonderful that was!” “It was so good to be back...the potluck, the fellowship. Just terrific!” Did you hear these kinds of statements as I did? Yes, it was good to be back. The food was delicious and the speaker, Brian Haines, stirred real interest in the history of churches in Hutchinson. He did a marvelous job enlightening us about some of our own Faith Lutheran history. Thanks be to God!



We’ll continue meeting again, in November. The date is earlier in the month due to Thanksgiving later in November. **Seniors’ Potluck** will be on **Thursday, November 11**, beginning with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**.

This is not a program meeting, but a MISSION MEETING. We will have our meal, a devotion, and then move on to fill Christmas Child boxes together. Officially it’s called “Operation Christmas Child,” or OCC for short. In the past we have packed 75 to 80 boxes. Of course we always hope we can top the last year so let’s encourage each other to buy items to fill the boxes to overflowing. Lists of things to buy for this mission are posted at each church entrance. Laura Stowman has all the information displayed so you can pick up lists, or a “**How To Pack a Shoebox**” folder and take note of what can and can’t be accepted for packing. Bring donated items by November 11, we will put them all out so that we can walk around tables and fill boxes with items for boys and girls ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. We have some expert box assemblers who will have boxes for you to pick up, label them boy or girl, and the age you are packing for. You may also contribute toward the shipping charge of \$9.00 each if you desire. (Checks should be made out to **Samaritans Purse**)

All of this may sound quite materialistic, handing out “stuff” to kids. But the boxes are really meant to declare the love of God in Jesus, who motivates US, the givers. Each child who receives a box is told that it is given to them in the Name of Jesus; and they are invited to a 12-session course for their age groups about God and His love in Jesus Christ, so it is definitely a “Mission.”

Some of you may prefer to roll bandages, since it is an activity that does not demand extra mobility. Materials for that will also be provided. Bandage rolling is also an important mission.

**ONE MORE THING:** Do you have a Thrivent insurance policy? Can you apply for a \$250.00 Thrivent grant to help finance this mission? If so, please do that for us. You can ask your Thrivent agent how to proceed if you need help.

Please pray for God to bless our attempts to bring His Name and salvation to young people in many countries all over the world. Come, with packing items, for a fun time together sharing the spirit and love of our dear Lord while supporting Operation Christmas Child.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A new GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP will begin this month. Sessions meet on **Thursdays**, at **4:00 p.m.** in the office conference room on **November 4, 11 and December 2 & 9**.



Grief can be a powerful and disruptive emotion in our lives. Facing a deep sorrow and loss is a very heavy load for anyone. Fortunately there are helpful tools available to guide us in managing our grief. One powerful tool is to attend a grief group with people who share common struggles. To meet to support and help each other through difficult times, and to highlight reaching out to God in faith.

If you are grieving a loved one’s death, a divorce, a lost friendship or any other loss you feel deeply, whether recent or if it is buried in your past, please join us.

If you have questions please contact Pastor Paulus (234-8415) or Marsha Schmit (234-8400).





## **Stump the Pastor**

*Q: I know Jesus died for the sins of the world, but how do I know that I personally will be saved?*

A: For each individual Christian, this is *the* vital question. Perhaps because of that, it is intriguing that even life-long Christians often struggle to be sure of their salvation when death draws near. A pastor I once knew wrote a book called something like *Temptation at Sunset* to describe how Satan can step in to undermine our faith when we know that our end is at hand.

So how can one be certain that he or she personally will be saved? One of Martin Luther's most important insights was that genuine assurance cannot come from inside of us. We simply are not able to apply God's promises to ourselves in a way that is resistant to doubt and worry. Instead, true, lasting assurance must come from outside of us, through an external word that breaks into our doubts, fears and worries with the word of Another, of God Himself. Christians receive that external word in two main ways.

First, and most significant, is the covenant of Holy Baptism. There, at a time when most people baptized in Lutheran churches were far too young to know what was happening, God called us by name, drowned our sinful selves and raised us up to eternal life as new creatures in Christ. Baptism depends entirely on God's promise and reliability, not on anything within us. Whenever we struggle with doubt or anxiety, the first place to cling is to our baptism.

The other chief way Christians receive that assurance is through the absolution, the declaration that God forgives your sin for Jesus' sake. That word is declared *to* us, as well as fed to us in the Lord's Supper, so it, too, breaks in from the outside. Even though the absolution is spoken by a pastor or any other Christian, we can trust it as Christ's own word to us. In Luke 24, the risen Jesus told his disciples, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that *the forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name* to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." When we speak the absolution, we do so at Jesus' direct command and, therefore, in his own voice.

In these two central ways, each one of us hears that God's promises are not only true in general, but that they are true *for me*. That is the only way to know beyond doubt that I personally will be saved through Christ Jesus. In listening to his word to you, and not to your own thoughts, you can be unshakably certain that God will save you for Jesus' sake.



## **Thanksgiving Worship Opportunities**

***Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Holy Communion Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m.***



Join your Faith family for a Dessert & Pie Social in the Faith Center following worship— stay for coffee, a treat and fellowship! *We will also need people to sign up to bring a dessert or pie. Contact Marsha to let her know what type of dessert you can bring.*

***Thanksgiving Day Worship with Holy Communion Thursday, Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.***

## **Advent Worship Opportunities**

*Wednesday evenings, December 1 - 22 at 6:30 p.m.* Details on each service to be announced.

Preceding the December 1 service will be the annual Soup/Chili Supper from 5-6 p.m. Sign up in the church office by Sunday, November 28 to bring your favorite soup, chili, dessert or bread.

## Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

*Saint Ellen:* Another beloved member of Faith who had a passionate heart for missions. Her persistent mission support- financial, prayerful, and in action- continues to be felt long after her death.

*Saint Ruthie:* This little saint, who is still active in our Faith Family, can be heard belting out praise songs during worship, boldly answering questions during Faith Seeds, or seen confidently leading actions during Sunday School music.

*And Saint YOU!* The Holy Spirit is in you! The Holy Spirit works through you! So come celebrate and worship the Lord on November 7, because God is good!

See you in church,  
Pastor Dave



### Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW)

The FLCW invites all women of Faith to two upcoming annual events. The first is the annual meeting which will be in the Faith Center on Sunday, November 14, at 11:15 a.m. Come and join the board for hot cider, appetizers, and the excitement of deciding how to disburse this years funds.

The second event is the Christmas Tea which will be held on Saturday, December 11, beginning at 2 .m. There will be decorated tables, scones and a fruit salad with tea and coffee. This year the event will include a portrayal of women in the Bible. Call Carreen Pierson at 507-236-0316 by November 14 if you would like to decorate a table. Tickets will be \$10 and they will be available at the annual meeting and in the church office after November 14. Plan to bring your family and friends to this special Christmas celebration.

*(The next board meeting will be on Monday, November 8 at 4:30 p.m.)*

### Operation Christmas Child

It is almost time for the two packing sessions and you can participate in Operation Christmas Child in several ways:

- ⇒ Pick up a box from the church office and fill it with items listed in OCC brochures and separate lists, available in the church office and narthex.
- ⇒ You can give money for shipping the boxes to countries all over the world. It costs approximately \$9 per box to ship. (Checks should be made out to Samaritan's Purse.)
- ⇒ If you have a Thrivent policy, you can apply for a \$250 grant to be used for buying box items or help with the shipping costs. You can talk to your Thrivent agent or apply online.



The 56er's will pack the shoe boxes on **Wednesday, November 10**, and the Seniors' Potluck team will pack on **Thursday, November 11**, so all donated items must be brought to the church before November 10.

If you are packing your own boxes, they must also be delivered to the church **by November 10**.





# 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 Stadsklev (Navy, Corpus Christi, TX - son-in-law of Judy & Tom Felber)  
SPC Ryan Wersal (Army, Fort Meade, MD - son of Roger & Laurie Wersal)  
Trevor Wersal (MN National Guard, son of Roger and Laurie Wersal)



Remember our Faith members in nursing homes & health care centers:



Facebook.com/  
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**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.**  
**THURSDAY 10 P.M.**

Faith Lutheran Church

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Cedar Crest – Silver Lake  
Patricia Lambert  
Lucille Wehking

Cokato Nursing Home  
Clara Betker

Harmony River  
Margaret Alrick  
LeRoy Barrick  
Ruth Larson  
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen  
Fran Lundeen  
Karol Nolte  
Jean Pittman  
Harriet Thor

Haven Homes - Maple Plain  
Ardell Novotny

Oaks  
Marcella Brede

Pines  
Ralph and Phyllis Blum

Prairie Senior Cottages  
Harold (Swede) Sandgren

Woodstone  
Dodie Fenske  
Betty Garberich  
Gerry Grams

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**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

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