



Faith Matters

January 2022



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Pastors' Page

Happy New Year!
And Happy Epiphany Season!

The church season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6, is an appropriate way to start out the calendar year. "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphainein*, which means "reveal." It deals with a manifestation. When we say, "I've had an epiphany!" we usually mean that an idea has revealed itself to us. So the season of Epiphany is a season of revelation, of manifestation.

It begins on Epiphany Day, Thursday, January 6, in which we mark the manifestation of Jesus to the magi from the East. The star revealed where the newborn King would be found.

It continues with the baptism of our Lord, where God revealed Jesus as His Son, with whom He is well pleased.

We'll hear about Jesus revealed—made manifest—through his first miracles, the calling of his first disciples, his first teachings, and other ways as he began his ministry.

Finally, we'll see Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, as he is revealed in dazzling white, with Moses and Elijah flanking him.

It's a beautiful season, and it leads us through the power and optimism surrounding the beginning of Jesus' ministry. That's what makes it appropriate for the beginning of our calendar year. We, too, begin each year with optimism and motivation. Sometimes we set goals or make

resolutions. We hope that this year will be better than the last (Vikings in the Super Bowl?). Then we buckle up to see how the year unfolds.

My prayer for you is that the spirit of Epiphany might be the spirit with which you approach this new year, that as we go into the great unknown of what will be 2022, we do so with eyes wide open for the manifestation of God, for him to reveal himself to us.

My expectation is that He will manifest and reveal himself in the same ways He's promised to: through the old, old story, and through simple things like bread and wine and water. These old and simple ways are powerful and mysterious ways; they are the Lord's ways. By his grace and by his Holy Spirit, the old story does a new thing in you; it reveals a new thing about Jesus. The bread and wine of the Lord's Supper creates newness in you, and reveals, once again, the grace of God for you.

It just might be that the newness you seek in 2022 can be found in the old, faithful means our Lord has given us. By his Word and Sacrament, you can be ready, so that whatever 2022 might bring, you can endure.

It just might be that the epiphany you need to start the year is simply this: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! (Heb 13:8)

Thanks be to God!

See you in church!
Pastor Dave



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 Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

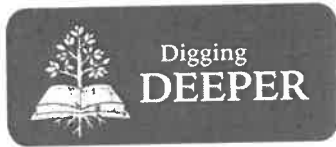
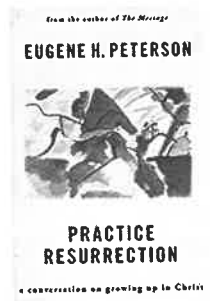


New Faith Groups Starting Soon!
The Biblical Orchard:
Real-Life Models of the Fruit of the Spirit

Start out the new year by diving into the word and enjoying great fellowship with others. Join this new Faith Group Series and take a look at how the fruit of the Spirit is manifested in your life! The series begins the week of January 16, and there are groups that meet on different days and different times. Consider joining the Tuesday Faith Group Night, with dinner and childcare included.

Theo Thursday Returns: Practice Resurrection

This adult book study meets on noon on Thursdays and will resume with a new book beginning January 20. This session will dive into Eugene Peterson’s *Practice Resurrection: Conversations on Growing up in Christ*. We’ll read a chapter a week and then gather to discuss it. It will be a great time of fellowship and learning! A Zoom option will be available for those who want or need to participate that way. Contact Pastor Dave for the link, if you have questions, or need help finding the book.



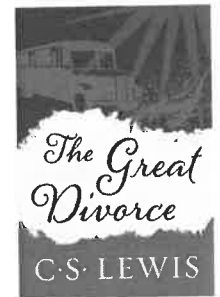
*Sunday mornings
at 9:15 a.m. in the
Faith Center,
beginning January 9.*

Who Is This Jesus?

We just celebrated Christmas again! Now what? Who is the child who was born in Bethlehem? What does he mean for you, for other people, for the world? This class will explore some of the major aspects of Jesus revealed in the Gospels and their significance for us today.

Men’s Bible Study

For many years, a group of men have met on Thursday mornings at 6:30 a.m. to study the Bible or other Christian books. Starting on January 6, the group will begin reading *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis, an intriguing little book that actually has nothing to do with marriage! Any man in—or outside—the congregation is welcome to take part and this would be a perfect time to join. Ask Pastor Scott for more information.





IMPORTANT

Faith Lutheran Church 2021 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, at 12 noon, in the sanctuary. The FLYouth will be serving lunch following the 10:10 a.m. services, so you will not have to leave for lunch before the meeting. This meeting is typically about an hour long. Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

Stewardship

This note was written before the end of 2021, so the final figures on giving and expense were still to be determined. So far, however, giving to Faith Lutheran in 2021 has exceeded last year and it appears hopeful that year-end offerings will break even with the ministry expenses of this year. After many years of financial struggles in our congregation, it is so exciting and encouraging to see such faithful stewardship grow from year to year. It is one way among many for us to express trust in God, serve His kingdom and give thanks for all His manifold gifts to us. **Thank you** to everyone in the family of Faith for recognizing how much stewardship matters!

Stewardship
A way of living

January Faith Family Fun

Sunday, January 9, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Bring the kids, bring the sleds and meet at rocket hill for an afternoon of sledding, cookies and hot cocoa. If the weather does not cooperate for sledding meet at church for a movie and treats instead.



Upcoming Changes to Faith's Social Media Posts

In an effort to be more intentional and vary our types of posts, we're making a few changes to how we engage the Faith Lutheran Facebook page. Here's a tentative look at what you can expect beginning in the new year:

Sunday: Schedule for the upcoming week

Monday: Link to the YouTube recording of Sunday's service

Tuesday: Faith Encouragement devotion

(Lectionary will be moving to Zoom, please contact the office for the link)

Wednesday: Morning Prayer (moving to 7 a.m.)

Thursday: Faith Encouragement devotion

Friday: The Faith Friday Five announcements

In addition, announcements and photos of events will also appear throughout the week.



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

SENIORS' SCENE



Here we are in the year of our Lord, 2022. Yay!! God has brought us to a new milestone. Did you think we'd make it? Some didn't. As we often say, "They're in a better place." If you're reading this, you're still in the "old place." That, too, is good; because we're living in relationship to a God of grace. Some of the aging difficulties aren't to our liking and not our choice, but God sees us through, doesn't He?

So now comes a new year for **Seniors' Potluck** meetings. Are you ready? Our first one is **Thursday, January 27**, beginning at **12:00 noon**, with our usual potluck dinner (YUM!!) We'll plan on that unless we hear of any new regulations from the governor. We are asking everyone to **SIGN IN** as you arrive; so we have a record if someone happens to test positive. **ALSO**, please keep as socially distanced as possible; and use hand sanitizer before handling your plates and foods. Masks are not demanded, but feel free to wear one. Caution (not fear) is good!

The program features someone you may know well. Name: Pastor Randy Freund. He is now the Service Coordinator for the Augustana District of the LCMC. Your steering committee confessed to needing more information on an association to which we belong and need to give hearty support.

To get into it, here's a little QUIZ. Work on it to see what you know and what you still need know. Have fun with it!

What does AD stand for?

- a. Aunt Dorothy
- b. Augustana District
- c. A sales notice

What programs does AD engage in?

- a. Missions
- b. Makes political statements
- c. Helps congregations secure pastors

Name a former pastor who works for AD?

- a. Ed Hanson
- b. Thor Skeie
- c. Randy Freund

Augustana District is located in?

- a. Washington, DC
- b. Hutchinson, MN
- c. USA
- d. Anywhere

Name two people from FLC who work for the AD?

- a. Wendy Magruder
- b. Orville Moe
- c. Niki Pokornowski
- d. Paul Knudson

Which annual events are held by AD?

- a. Annual convention
- b. Confirmation retreat
- c. WOW gathering
- d. Convocation/Theological Conference

Fellowship Against Cancer Support Group

We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in the office conference room from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. We continue to go through topics related to those recently diagnosed, in treatment, in recovery, or embracing the new normal. We will continue to offer shared experiences, general tips, advice, and support. Through faith and love we embrace this time together. Those with cancer or caring for someone with cancer are welcome. If you are interested in this group, please contact Jeff or the Pastoral Care team.



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Urgent Witness Begins at Home, Just Possibly Not as Expected

Reflections from Pastor Paul

Faith Lutheran divides its mission budget into local/regional and global giving. In my experience, when we think of witness locally and regionally, we tend to think of helping to meet pressing human needs like those addressed locally by one of our partners, Common Cup Ministries. When we think globally, we focus our giving on evangelical outreach through our partners in multiple countries. We think of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through our indigenous witnesses.

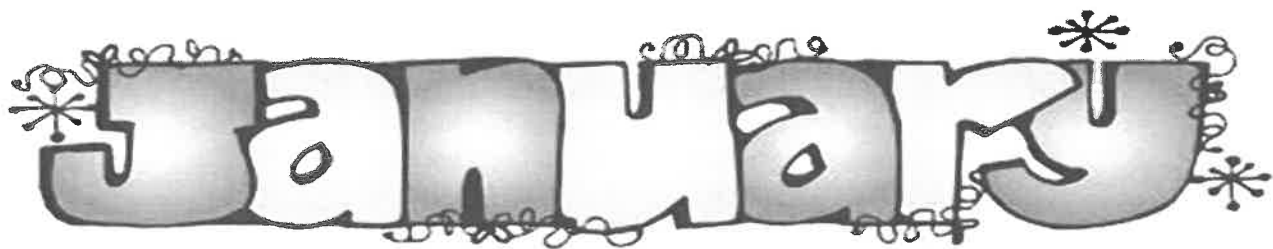
Many of us are coming to terms with the reality that in our Western world, yes, here in America, we need to rethink our witness locally. This Christmas season, if I am not mistaken, many of us will be

gathering with children, grandchildren, and others who have not only dropped away from church attendance, but are more and more willing to say that they see little to no need for God or for Jesus Christ at the center of their lives.

Could it be time in 2022 for some significant time and focus on this challenge for witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ to those we know up close and personally? Your staff will be more than willing to wrestle with you on digging deep into this present challenge/opportunity.

November Hunger Appeal

This year once again, we were blessed by generosity from members of FLC. A total of \$7,282 was received towards the Hunger Appeal. Of that total 35% will go to Common Cup Ministries focused on their food programs. Another 40% will go to New Hope Mission Society and our partners in India at the Bishara Center's hunger relief efforts. The final 25% will go to the Friends of Madagascar Mission with special focus on their feeding programs through a major hospital and several prisons.



Giving Tree

In place of the McLeod County Giving Tree, the Congregational Life Team is collecting new mittens, hats, scarves, and warm socks through the end of January. You can place your gifts on the trees in the office gathering space or the sanctuary gathering space. Gifts will be distributed through Common Cup Ministry. Your generosity will help people stay warm in our community this winter and is greatly appreciated!



Caring Card Ministry

The Caring Card Ministry is an outreach program to the people of Faith Lutheran who are going through a transition in life, medical tests, have been recently hospitalized, or are suffering from cancer or other illness. Birthday cards are also sent to those 80 and over in the congregation. Each month, one person from the ministry is assigned to send these cards. **We are currently in need of a few more people to come on board.** Please let Marsha know if you are interested at marshas@faithlc.com or 587-2093. Thank you!



Q: Matthew said very little about the Wise Men who visited Jesus, yet he specifically named the three gifts they brought. Is there some special significance to those gifts?

A: Matthew also said very little about the Wise Men’s gifts, but Biblical scholars have long believed that he wanted his readers to understand them symbolically. We cannot know for sure exactly how Matthew saw them, but here is a common interpretation.

People have always valued gold as the most precious metal, for many reasons. Because of that, kings often used gold and golden objects. I Kings 10:21 reports, “All King Solomon’s drinking vessels...and all the vessels of (his palace) were of pure gold; none were of silver—it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.” So the gold that the Wise Men gave to Jesus declared that he was a royal child, a king. Ironically, that was the charge that Pontius Pilate used to justify his crucifixion: “This is the King of the Jews.”

Incense has long been used in various worship rituals. Leviticus 16 directs that the high priest Aaron “shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of crushed sweet incense, and he shall bring it inside the curtain and put the incense on the fire before the LORD...” Only priests could burn the incense, so the gift of frankincense indicates that Jesus would serve as our priest, as Hebrews 4:14 confirms: “Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.”

Myrrh was a costly spice that was mixed into other substances and used for various purposes. Mark 15:22 records that soldiers offered Jesus “wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it,” which suggests it was some kind of anesthetic. Myrrh was also used to anoint dead bodies and that is the more likely significance of this gift. Jesus, our King, in order to serve as our great high priest, was destined to die on the cross, and the gift of myrrh pointed to that unexpected—and unexpectedly gracious—outcome.



Directory Photos

They are done! The pictures taken for the 2021 Anniversary directory are finished. If you did not get your digital download copy, please let the office know and we will get you one. Directories are being printed now and should be available sometime late January. Please watch the bulletins and Facebook page for pickup information when they are available.



Faith Lutheran
Church Women

From the FLCW

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Tea, those who decorated tables, helped to prepare and serve, portray the women of the Bible and those who attended and enjoyed the event. This was a joyful Advent celebration!

Looking ahead into 2022, the annual rummage sale is currently being planned for April 21 - 22. You can prepare for this event by setting aside items as you clean out your closets during the winter months.

**Save
the
Date**

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



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

Cedar Crest - Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
Lucille Wehking

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker

Harmony River

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

New Haven - Maple Plain

Ardell Novotny

Pines

Ralph and Phyllis Blum
Milt Lueneburg

Prairie Senior Cottages

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:

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.

