

Faith Matters

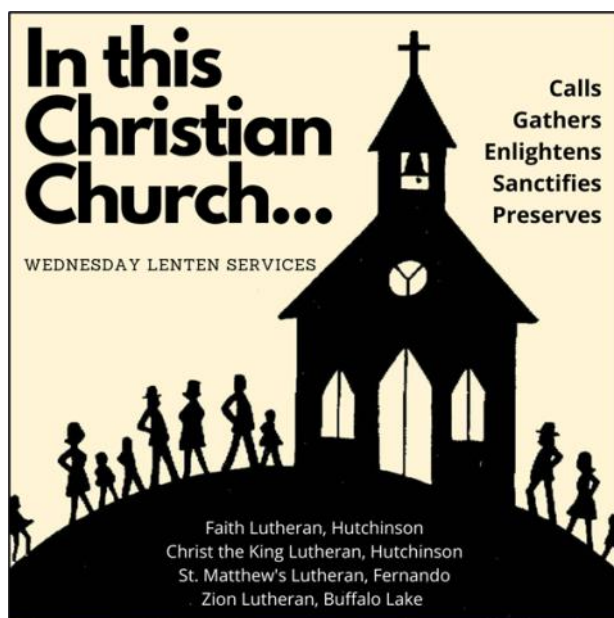
March 2022

Pastors' Page



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only created, but also sustains it. The Church is God's plan for the spread of the gospel. The Church is the beloved Bride of Christ. The Church is you, and me. The Church is We.

So I love the Church.

I especially love the Church during the holy season of Lent: as the Church gathers on Wednesdays and Sundays for the sacred journey to the cross of Christ; as this church gathers in the sanctuary, with that big cross hanging in the front, with purple paraments reminding us of the season,

I love the Church.

When you look at it critically—and these days a lot of people do—there are a lot of things to dislike about the church.

“It’s full of hypocrites!”

“It’s boring!”

“They just want my money!”

“It isn’t relevant”

And so on and so on— trust me, I’ve heard them all. Some of the complaints I agree with, to an extent (we are all hypocrites, so join us! You’ll fit right in!). Other complaints are based off isolated bad experiences or misunderstandings. But I think all complaints and misguided thoughts about the Church forget one important reality, which is articulated by the words of the great hymn *The Church’s One Foundation*: “She is His new creation, by water and the Word.”

The Church is God’s creation, birthed by the Holy Spirit, who not

with ash smeared on our foreheads, with confirmation students leading us in worship, and guest preachers bringing the Word. I LOVE Church! I LOVE this church! And I LOVE being in this church during this season.

Join me. Join me in this holy season in this holy gathering of people that is a part of the holy Christian Church that God created and sustains. Come and worship, and hear of the sacred head now wounded, behold the power of the cross, and receive the new life won through Christ Jesus— all of this—in this Christian church.

And that’s our theme for this year’s Lenten journey— “In this Christian Church.” We have pulled our theme from Luther’s Small Catechism and his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle’s Creed. This season, during our midweek services, we will explore the Holy Spirit’s work

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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.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

YOUTUBE SERVICE RECORDINGS



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And So Much More!	

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in the church, as he “**calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies** the whole Christian church on earth, and **preserves** it in unity with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.” Each week we will hear from a different preacher, exploring the five bold words from Luther’s explanation, and asking that old catechism question, “What does this mean?”

We are excited once again to partner with Christ the King and St. Matthew’s Lutheran, and welcome Pastor Mark, Pastor Steve, and Pastor Aaron. We are also excited to add another congregation to our rotation, Zion Lutheran in Buffalo Lake, which is new to the LCMC and without a pastor.

So, Lord, this Lenten season do your good work! Call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and preserve us! We love your Church! Amen!

So we’ll see you in church!

Pastor Dave

Lenten Schedule

Begin with **Ash Wednesday on March 2**. Services will be held at 12:00 noon and 6:30 p.m. both with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion

Lent then continues with Wednesday evening services at 6:30 p.m., March 9—April 6

Mark your Calendar for Holy Week: April 10-17

Sunday—Palm Sunday (regular service times) with children’s palm processional and breakfast served between services

Thursday—Maundy Thursday services at 6:00 and 7:30 p.m., celebrating first communion with our sixth grade students

Friday—Joint Good Friday services, 12:00 noon at Christ the King and 6:30 p.m. at Faith Lutheran

Easter Sunday—Services at 6:00, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion



Lenten Picnic

Our Annual Lenten Picnic is back! Make plans to attend on Wednesday, March 16, from 5:00 – 6:15 p.m. in the Faith Center. Come for grilled hotdogs, beans, chips, lemonade, bars and fellowship with the Faith family! Please join us for this taste of summer and then stay for the Lenten worship service at 6:30.

Stewardship Matters

One business item at Faith’s annual meeting last month was to approve the church budget for 2022. That budget included a really heartening proposal. Here’s the background.

For many years, Faith Lutheran has tithed (given away 10%) of the General Fund offerings it received. Those benevolence gifts support a wide variety of local, national and global mission efforts. Even in the years when the church had large deficits in the General Fund, the commitment of tithing was always maintained.

Over the last decade, however, Faith’s finances have steadily improved and offerings from Faith’s members have steadily grown. In that light, the 2022 budget proposed increasing Faith’s benevolence to



11% of General Fund offerings, which the annual meeting approved. This commitment means an additional \$8,000.00 will go to support the mission outreach of the church. This is fruit born of the generous and faithful giving to the work God is doing in *and through* our congregation—living proof that stewardship matters!

“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults



Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

“Parables, Prodigals, and Parallels to Purim”

Join Pastor Dave in an interesting exploration of five well-known parables in Luke 15-16 and how they parallel the events of the book of Esther. We’ll examine reversals, feasts, and ominous messages in the stories of sheep, coins, sons, stewards and beggars in light of the drama of Queen Esther, Haman, and Mordecai. This class will meet in the Faith Center.



And whatever you do,
whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God
the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

“Whatever You Do, in Word or Deed...”

That phrase from Colossians 3:17 raises the question of the Christian *life* and how it proceeds from Christian *faith*. What does it mean to “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus”? This class will explore those questions, drawing on a short book by James Burtness about how Christian faith shapes the way we live and informs the decisions we make. Meeting in the office conference room.

Date Night! (Rescheduled)

A new ministry for couples on Friday, March 25, at the church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come for an evening of good food, great folks, and friendly encouragement for your marriage. The night will feature dinner and a guest speaker on relationships and marriage. Couples of all ages are encouraged to attend!



The NERD of the RINGS

This enjoyable and theological monthly book study of *The Lord of the Rings* will continue this month at 7 p.m., on Sunday, March 27, in the office conference room. It is not too late to join Pastor Dave and other Lord of the Rings nerds for a discussion of J.R.R. Tolkien’s classic tale of *The Lord of the Rings*. In this second gathering, we’ll discuss “Book Two” in *The Fellowship of the Rings*.



Inviting Prayers for Our Global Mission Partners *From Pastor Paul*

Our Tabor Partners in Ethiopia: We are blessed with faithful partners who rejoice in the ways the Augustana District and we at Faith Lutheran assist them in sending out some 60 evangelists to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ primarily to Muslims. Ashenafi Wachamo is a marvelous head of Tabor’s Board of Elders and expresses to us their profound gratitude for sticking with them in this courageous outreach witness. Faith has committed \$6,500 again in 2022 for our part in this Spirit-led endeavor.

The North Central Ethiopia Synod (NCES) is Grateful To Us For Standing with Them in Time of Crisis: A rebel force from a small area of northern Ethiopia, who for many years had the power in the country of Ethiopia, tore through the area of the NCES damaging churches, causing thousands to flee their homes, and forced the Synod President to flee with his family lest they be killed. Thanks be to God these destructive forces were turned back and recovery is now in progress. Amazingly, the AD congregations and members gave over \$50,000 to meet this crisis need in NCES. The leaders of the Synod have expressed their deep gratitude for the AD response. FLC gave leadership to this labor of love.



The Bole Congregation in Addis Ababa Expresses Their Gratitude: Recently FLC stepped up to meet a request from their pastor, who has been to FLC when he was Tabor’s pastor, to assist them in sending out evangelists to bring Christ to those in the “Orthodox Church,” culturally aligned with Christians but without faith centered in Jesus Christ. This congregation has committed \$10,000 to its outreach and is so thankful for our congregation committing \$1,500 in our 2022 budget to this witness. Others in the AD will follow our lead.

Happy March, Faith Family!

With Ash Wednesday on March 2, and Lenten services on the following Wednesdays, there are numerous worship opportunities outside of Sunday mornings. Lent is my favorite season of the church year. There is a deep culture of hymnody and music tradition that is especially captivating during this time of the year. I implore

you to make a priority of involving yourself in this tradition, whether it be on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, or both! Each ensemble at Faith is preparing pieces that will complement the emphasis of Christ’s passion. Music heightens the pillars of worship (Word and Sacrament) by uniting us all together with one voice. Come, join us in worship to sing and experience this rich tradition of music.

Speaking of uniting us together, did you know that Faith Singers is partnering with Christ the King’s choir in May? Yes! We will be joining together to sing selections from Handel’s *Messiah* on Sunday, May 1. If you are interested in singing or playing (strings and brass), contact Austin immediately for more information! This event is one you do not want to miss.

Soli Deo Gloria!
Austin

SENIORS' SCENE

Our next **Seniors' Potluck** meeting is **Thursday, March 31**, beginning, as always, with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon. When all the eating and conversation is finished, we will experience an interesting time listening to information about our town and community.

Have you ever wondered about all those huge buildings on the east side of Hutchinson, and elsewhere? You see a building, with all the cars in the parking lot, and you wonder what those industries are and what those workers are doing. And those aren't the only ones. What changes are going on with certain business places on Main Street; or the mall, etc...?

Mary Hodson works with the Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce and will answer some of those questions. Perhaps you will want to ask her what's going on with this industry, or that company or store. You hear things but don't know if they are rumors or fact.

Don't miss this opportunity. Come to Seniors' Potluck, and bring a friend with you. It will be a "win, win" experience!



"Watch the Food Grow"

Now through April 11, the Congregational Life Team is inviting you to bring in non-perishable food and other items listed below to help the McLeod County Food Shelf. Please bring your donations in and place them in the Garden Box by door #2. Thank you!

Most Needed Items

Whole Grains
Whole grain cereal
crackers, pasta, rice

Proteins
Nuts & nut butters
canned meats, fish

Cooking & Baking Items
Seasonings & spices
condiments & sauces
baking ingredients

Personal Care Items
Shampoo, soap, body wash,
deodorant, toothpaste,
toilet paper,
feminine hygiene

Household Items
Laundry soap, dish soap,
kitchen & bathroom cleansers,
paper towels

\$ CASH \$

RUMMAGE SALE



News From the Faith Lutheran Church Women

Excitement is starting to build for the annual rummage sale which will be held this year the week after Easter, on April 21 and 22.

Many hands are needed to help in a variety of ways to make this a successful event. This year, help will be needed in the following roles on these dates:

*Saturday, April 16, strong arms and backs are needed to help set up tables from 9 - 11 a.m.

*Monday -Wednesday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., donations can be dropped off and help will be needed to sort and set up sale items

*Thursday, the sale will run from 2-7 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Help will be needed to man the cash registers

*Saturday, April 23, help is needed to clean up from 9 a.m. - 12 noon

How will you plug in and help make this a super sale this year?

Please note that we can NOT accept televisions, computers or computer equipment, appliances, or electronic exercise equipment.

Thank you!



Q: *We hear how important it is to attend church, but why? God is everywhere and can reach us anywhere, so why not just read my Bible at home and skip the formalities?*

A: A person who was inquiring about Faith Lutheran recently posed this question to me. In that case, sad to say, my best efforts to make the case for gathering together in worship fell on deaf ears. However, judging by low attendance numbers here at Faith and in so many other churches, lots of other people are asking the same question.

Why should Christians make weekly worship a top priority in their lives? Here is a brief list of key reasons why attending worship is essential, not optional, for Christian faith:

- *Historically, Christians have always gathered together around word, sacrament, prayer and fellowship. It started on the day the Church was born, as noted in Acts 2:41-47.
- *Biblically, the Church is portrayed as the Body of Christ, made up of many individual parts or members, but only working when the members are united as one body.
- *Theologically, God mostly does *not* work by direct inspiration, but in incarnate ways, using ordinary means like words and water, bread and wine, which can only be shared together among the gathered people of God.
- *Spiritually, we are not able to apply God's promises to ourselves in a reliable way that is free from doubt or that we are certain is God's voice and not our own. The Word has to be addressed to us from the outside by a preacher, as Paul says in Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from what is heard and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."
- *Communally, Christians draw invaluable support from what Martin Luther called "the mutual conversation and consolation of the saints." As we strive to live for Christ in this world broken by sin, we need to lean on one another and not go it alone.
- *Ultimately, gathering for worship is vital because God says it is. The Third Commandment declares, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." In the *Small Catechism*, Luther explains, "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise his Word and the preaching of it, but acknowledge it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it."

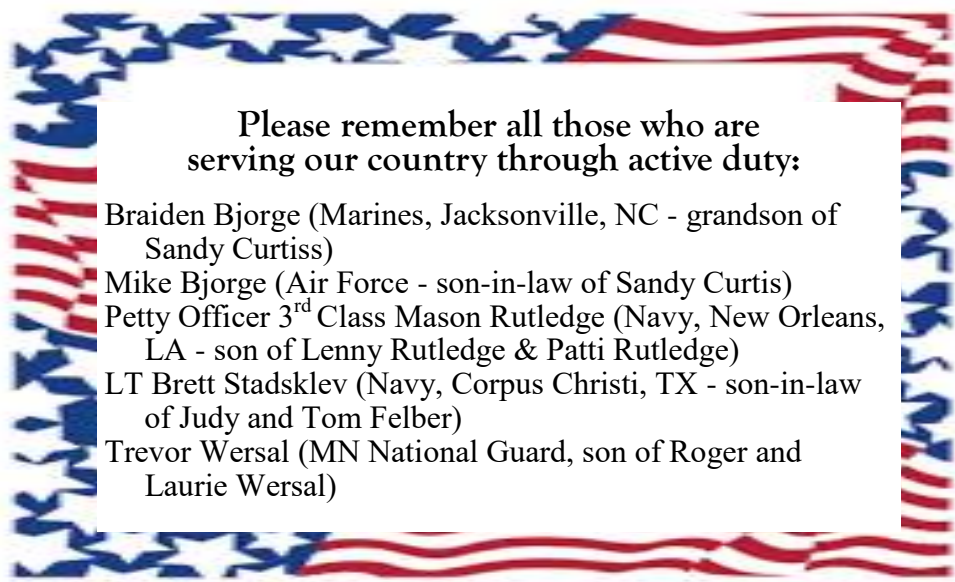
Churches like Faith Lutheran can broadcast and stream worship services, but that is no substitute for what happens when people gather in person in Christ's own presence to receive his gifts of grace. That is a gift that we cannot value too highly.

*Find more information and schedule updates
on our Website and Facebook Page!*



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson

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 and Tom Felber)
 Trevor Wersal (MN National Guard, son of Roger and Laurie Wersal)



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

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- Cedar Crest - Silver Lake
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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

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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.

