



Faith Matters

May 2022

Pastors' Page



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“You have a faith heritage to share”

Bless The Years Sunday – May 1, 2022

My grandfather liked to talk a lot, especially when he was joking. But he didn't tell me much about his early life, as a child, a youth or a young man. I don't even know how he met grandma. Nor did he tell us much about his work as a section foreman on the railroad. I know he grew up in Germany and served in the military under the Kaiser. Someone else told me that. He did tell me how sailors learned to swim. He said recruits were taken out in a boat and forced to jump into the water and swim to shore. They either made it back to shore or didn't. Grandpa didn't remember any who didn't make it.

I'm sure grandpa had a lot more stories about his life. I feel rather “empty” that I don't know more of them, because grandpa's heritage is my heritage. I descended from him in part and a part of grandpa lives in me. I think the biggest thing I would like to have known is what made him a Christian. When we vacationed at their house we always went to church on Sundays a block from his home in Valley City, North Dakota. I knew Sunday worship was important, but he never told me why.

You see, Grandparents have more influence on their grandchildren than they might think. If you want to see them stay with God's church, be His faithful servants and, especially, be with you in heaven, you need to be ready to share your faith story in whatever ways you can, especially by demonstrating how you are doing your best to honor God and hold to His promises of forgiveness and salvation. You may have opportunities to tell them why God is central to your life. I really wish I could read about my grandpa's faith life today. He definitely had a faith heritage to share. So did my other grandparents and parents.

That makes me think about sharing my heritage. This past Christmas my granddaughter gave me a book entitled “*What Are Your Memories, Grandpa?*” that has all kinds of questions and suggestions for putting my heritage into my own words. I know it was her way of telling me she wants to know my heritage. I'm trying to be diligent about writing and sharing my life stories, especially my faith heritage. That's hard for me because I'd rather read someone else's instead of writing my own. But I'm going to try, because I, like you, am a child of God. I am made in His image, and uniquely put together. As I look back over my life I can see more and more how God was guiding me and helping me. Trying to play that down is like slapping God in the face. It is not egocentric to share who you are and why you believe in our gracious God.

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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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Our *Spotlight on Seniors* this year gave me, Virginia Brodd, the opportunity to sit in a comfortable sunroom on a beautiful March morning and visit with David and Marian Skaar. They shared with me their story of faith, family and lots of enjoyable memories.

Marian was born and grew up in Morris, MN. She was the oldest of four children after losing her older sister at a young age. Marian's early memories of her faith journey were prayers at mealtime and bedtime. Sunday school started for three-year-olds and she doesn't remember a time when the family didn't attend Sunday worship. In winter months, when the snow was too deep for the car, the horse and sleigh was hitched up and the family attended using that means of transportation. There was even a barn by the church to house the horses during services. She spoke fondly of the 4th of July celebration at the church. In later years, the horse barn was converted to a dining hall where food was served and fellowship abounded. Games for all ages were played and fun was had by all. The church was the center of the community and it was an extended family. Marian graduated from high school in Morris and then headed to Augsburg College where she attended classes for two years.

Dave was born in Stoughton, WI. He also had a sister that died as a baby and one brother. Dave's mother died giving birth, so Dave and his baby brother were brought up by his grandma in a Baptist household. When he was in third grade, his father remarried and the family moved to Rockford, IL. Dave remembers his baptismal day, standing in the parsonage next to the font and being baptized. He noted that his new stepmom's family included 13 ministers, counting uncles, cousins, and second cousins. After graduation from high school, Dave also attended Augsburg College, graduating with a major in music and a minor in physical education. Augsburg College was the church-sponsored school of higher education in both Dave and Marian's congregations, so it was the natural choice that they would attend there.

Dave was a junior in college when Marian started her college education. They met in the college choir, Marian stood one riser down from Dave. Let's all agree that together they have been making beautiful music ever since. After Dave graduated from Augsburg, the young couple was married and moved to southern Wisconsin where Dave taught music, kindergarten to 12th grade for one year. They re-located to Buffalo Lake where Dave continued teaching music, this time only 5th thru 12th graders. After 10 years, a job opportunity in Hutchinson came their way. There was an opening in the music department at Hutchinson high school and a job where Dave would only have 7-12th grade students. Coming to Hutchinson also meant leaving their church in Buffalo Lake. A fellow teacher invited Dave and Marian to come to Faith Lutheran and check it out. Besides, the church was in need of a music director and he would fit right in. They did a church visit and not only did they join Faith, but Dave filled the position of choir director, which he held for 15 years, even coming back to fill in between director vacancies. When Dave was music director, there was both a junior and senior choir. I needed him to repeat the statement that every Sunday one of the choirs sang at the 8 o'clock service and the other choir sang at the 10 o'clock service. There was choir music every Sunday.

Dave and Marian have five children, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, with another one on the way. Teaching runs in the Skaar family as all five of their children and two of their grandchildren have degrees in education. To date, this totals 176 years of teaching in the Skaar family with many more years to come. Besides teaching music, Dave and Marian ran a photography business for 40 years, being the go-to photographer for confirmation pictures at church. Go down the music hallway and appreciate the beautiful

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Senior Spotlight continued from pg. 2

framing job done on the “wall of pastors.” Dave not only took pictures, he framed them. Music isn’t the only thing the Skaars have done for Faith. Both served on church council, church photography, Spit and Shine crew and Marian has been active as a release time teacher, ladies’ aid president, prayer shawl knitter (300+ made so far) and many years as a quilter.

The church has changed from Dave and Marian’s childhood. Growing up attending one service with one pastor and knowing everyone in the congregation to our current church with three services, four pastors and needing a church directory to identify a name or face are changes they noted. But that being said, they both agreed Faith is a wonderful place to call their church home.

Our visit concluded with a special thought from Dave which rings so true. As we grow older, we mature in our faith. Most of us go from a single, to a couple and then a family... as the years move on we become a couple again and in time a single. We aren’t anxious for the end, but are certainly aware it is coming. Dave and Marian are a perfect example of staying active and involved in the church no matter what stage of life they are in.

Submitted by Virginia Brodd



Pastor’s Page continued from pg. 1

I have spoken to people who thought they could never do a memory book. But when family nudged them into it, they were surprised at how much they could recall with some prompting; how one memory led to another. It actually became fun for them.

For Digging Deeper on Bless the Years Sunday, May 1, Daryl Bateman will share his heritage writing. While no two people will do it the same, Daryl will show how his book emerged, what the experience was like and what a blessing it has been for his family. Then we will try to take it a step further by sharing some hints about sharing your own stories and helping you get a brief start.

Sure hope you join us.

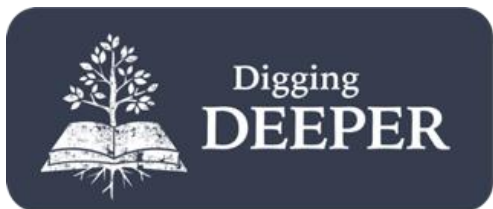
Pastor Paulus Pilgrim



Stewardship Matters

The return of high inflation rates fuels anxiety about the future and our financial security. When the cost of nearly everything is rising, it is hard not to wonder if our income will cover all our monthly bills. Situations like this, however, are one reason why faithful stewardship practices are so important. The Biblical basis for carefully managing all we have, as well as giving generously to those in need, is God’s promise to provide steadfastly for all of our needs. Acting on that promise in good financial times encourages us to keep trusting God in more difficult ones. The one constant on which we can always rely is His faithfulness to us!





“Faith Seeks Understanding”
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

May 1—Bless the Years

Please join us for a special Digging Deeper (in the Faith Center) on Bless the Years Sunday. The topic for this special Digging Deeper will be “Sharing Your Faith Heritage” in writing, for your family and generations to come.

May 8 & 15—“Then He Opened Their Minds to Understand the Scriptures”

This discussion will look into Jesus’ post-Easter appearances in Luke and will meet in the Faith Center. This session will conclude the Digging Deeper season as we take a break through the summer.

New Members Orientation

New members will be received on Sunday, May 15. Orientation sessions will be held for three weeks beginning Sunday, May 1. If you are interested in membership, or know of someone who is, please contact Marsha at marshas@faithlc.com or call the church at 587-2093.



Handel's
MESSIAH

SUNDAY | 05.01.22 | 3PM
PERFORMED AT CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONCERT PRESENTED BY CHRIST THE KING
AND FAITH LUTHERAN CHORAL ENSEMBLES



**Greetings,
friends!**

Can you believe we are already in May? This month kicks off with a joint Handel’s *Messiah* concert with Christ the King (May 1, at 3p.m.). From there, we head straight into preparation for outdoor worship, woo-hoo! I don’t know about you, but I could use some warmer weather right now. Starting May 29, join us in Library Square at 10:10 a.m. for outdoor worship. During the summer, both 8:00 a.m. and 10:10 a.m. services will be recorded for TV. The 8:00 a.m. service will be live on KDUZ and will be recorded for our YouTube channel. Outdoor worship also means that we need many hands to help set up and tear down equipment each Sunday. If you find yourself in the park early or after worship, find Austin and see what needs to be done!

See you in church!
Austin



Stump the Pastor

Q: I had never noticed Matthew 27:51-54. Were other dead people really raised at the same time as Jesus?

A: Matthew's account of Easter is the most vivid and dramatic of the four Gospels, so it is not entirely surprising that only he reports that "the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many." (vss. 52-53) It is a fascinating detail, although perhaps not as important as the elements that are common to all four Gospel accounts.

Along with the tearing of the curtain in the temple and a great earthquake, the dead who rose signified that a new age dawned at the very moment Jesus died. Those signs revealed that he is the final Judge, whose reign over heaven and earth was beginning.

They also confirmed that the soldiers were right when they declared in v. 54 that Jesus is the Son of God. Together, the signs and the soldiers' witness overturn the insults of the chief priests and others who denied that fact.

The chronology of Matthew's report is noteworthy. He says that the dead were raised when Jesus died, but they only appeared in Jerusalem after Jesus himself rose from the dead. That shows that Jesus' death and resurrection form one event, not two, that broke the power of death and brought salvation to the world. As Jesus, the Author of Life, dies, the dead live again; as he appears as the resurrected Lord, so do those who are raised in him.

Matthew's account reflects other New Testament promises. I Thessalonians 4:16 declares, "For the Lord himself ... will descend from heaven, *and the dead in Christ will rise first.*" I Corinthians 15:23 promises, "As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, *then* at his coming those who belong to Christ. *Then* comes the end..." I Peter 3:18-19 proclaims, "Christ... was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and *made a proclamation to the spirits in prison...*"

This is all quite mysterious, of course, and well outside normal human experience. One way to think of the rising and appearing of the dead in Matthew is as a preview, or the first act of, or a down payment on the resurrection of all the dead on the Last Day. It displayed the eternal significance of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, and thereby provided a powerful testimony to his frightened, confused disciples who could not quite process the witness of the women who went to the tomb—and it does the same for us.



Did you know that YOU gave nearly 400 pounds of food and other items as well as over \$330 to the Food Shelf through our "Watch the Food Garden Grow" campaign? The gifts were also matched by a grant, giving the McLeod County food shelf double what you donated. Well done!



Seniors' Scene

I hope you all had a blessed Easter season. He is risen!

He is risen indeed! We have new life through Him here and now, and forever in eternity. Jesus is living and instantly available to us in prayer and spirit. Pray to Him for all your needs. Depend on Him in trust and obedience. He is our firm foundation for all things. Happy Easter!

Our next **Seniors' Potluck** is **Thursday, May 26**. It is titled, "**Reminiscing: Reliving the 'Old Times.'**" It begins with potluck dinner at **12:00 noon**, as always. Each table in the Faith Center will have objects or pictures of something from the past. Everyone at your table can share what they remember about those items. We'll also take some time to share memories with the whole group. Furthermore, if you have something you would like to bring—an antique, an article from a newspaper, your old catechism, pictures—bring them to Pastor Pilgrim ahead of time and we can use them to reminisce.

What's so great about reminiscing? It's not living in the past. It's recalling the past for a present experience that can remind us where we've traveled through life, and especially, how God has led, called and upheld us in good and tough times.

Be ready for some laughter, food, fellowship and inspiration. See you at POTLUCK!!



Ukraine Refugee Crisis: Specific and Big Picture Report

To date, Faith Lutheran has received \$6,775.29 towards Ukrainian relief which has been equally divided between two missions that we support. Half has been designated for Youth With A Mission (YWAM) working in Nuremberg, Germany. Katie Weikle, one of our members, has an administrative position for YWAM's training program there. They have been able to give temporary housing to over 30 refugees as well as sending important supplies to those who cannot get out of Ukraine.

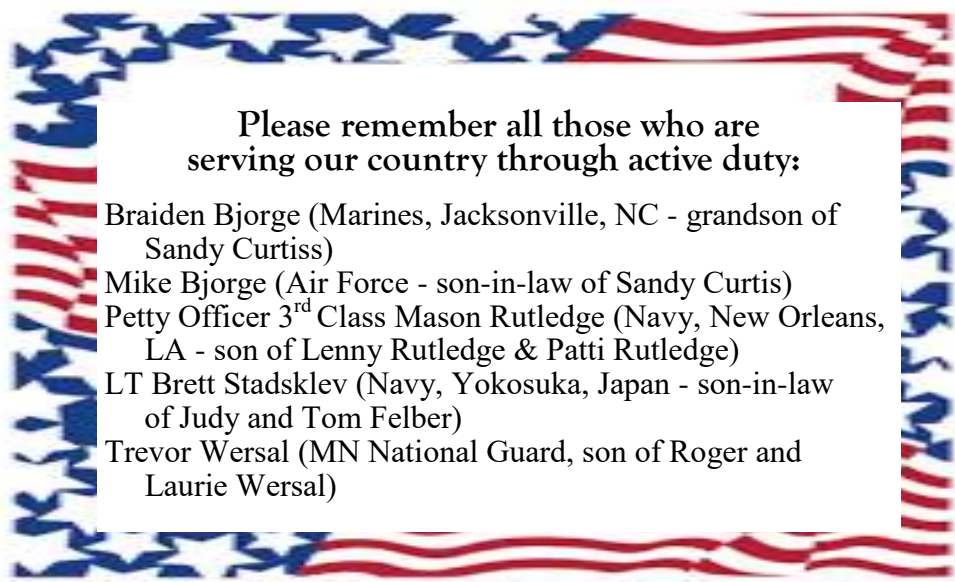
The other half of the funds were given to Tartu Academy of Theology. It has also provided some housing and supplies. Both recipients have expressed their profound gratitude for this generosity.

Tartu Academy of Theology has also received funds from other Augustana District congregations. That, along with other gifts has led to a total of \$41,000 sent, at last report. There are some 30,000 Ukrainian refugees in Estonia, and TAT is also able to help other area congregations to meet the needs of many refugees.

SON (Spiritual Orphans Network), formerly known as Eastern European Mission Network (EEMN), a vetted mission of the Augustana District, has raised over \$500,000 to meet this crisis.

All of us are invited to pray, not only for the refugees, but so that this horrific war could end very soon without more tragic loss of life and utter destruction of this land. Ukraine was trampled on by Russia and Germany in WWII. Now they have again experienced despicable loss of life of millions of its people, poor peasant farmers and Jewish citizens.

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, Yokosuka, Japan - 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:

Cedar Crest – Silver Lake

Patricia Lambert
 Lucille Wehking

Cokato Nursing Home

Clara Betker

Glenfields–Glencoe

Mae Sondergaard

Grand Meadows–Glencoe

Rose Wagner

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
 Geraldine (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

**DUST OFF YOUR LAWN CHAIRS!
OUTDOOR WORSHIP RESUMES IN
LIBRARY SQUARE ON SUNDAY,
MAY 29 AT 10:10 A.M.**

