



# Faith Matters

## June 2022

### Pastors' Page



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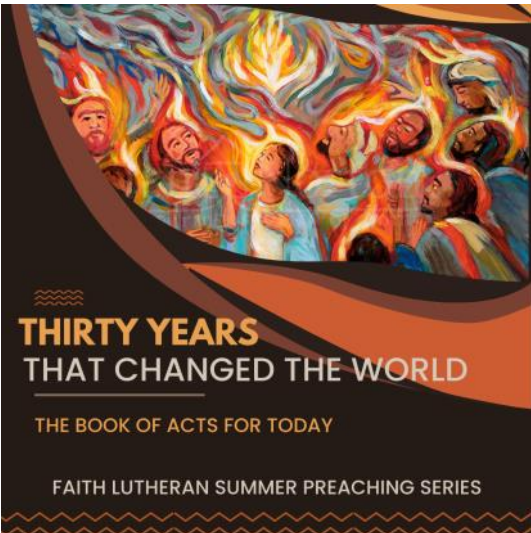
Do you remember what was happening 30 years ago?

First of all, a jarring reminder: 30 years ago was 1992, not 1972! Feeling old? Get ready to feel older! Thirty years ago,, Los Angeles was being torn apart by the Rodney King riots, Johnny Carson hosted his last Tonight Show before handing it over to Jay Leno, Shaquille O’Neal was the first pick in the NBA Draft, and Ross Perot was running for President. That feels like an eternity ago!

A lot can happen in 30 years! Just think about how much our world has changed in that time. Technology, world events, pandemics, scientific breakthroughs, and so much more have had profound effects on our world! Of course, some things never change, like the Vikings’ Super Bowl tally. \*sigh\*

If you think a lot has happened in our past 30 years, this summer we will look at a 30-year span that radically changed the world and continues to resonate to this day. In fact, because of those 30 years, you’re reading this article, you attend Faith Lutheran, and you follow Jesus! This summer, we will hear about the radical events that took place in the 30 years described in the Book of Acts.

Our theme for Sundays this summer is **“Thirty Years That Changed the World: The Book of Acts for Today.”** We took the title from author Michael Green’s book of the same name. We will hear how the Holy Spirit, starting with a cowering group of 11 disciples, began a movement that went from “Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8). We’ll hear about the



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



Inside this issue:

Financial Update	2
Music	3
Stump The Pastor	4
Missions	5
Summer Interns	6
Staff and Prayers	7
Children and Youth	Insert
Calendar	Insert
And So Much More!	

## Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

birth of the church, and how that church grew into a force that rocked the Roman Empire. We'll hear about ordinary sinners that God used in extraordinary ways — sinners like Paul, Phillip, Barnabas, James, Lydia, and Stephen.

We're excited for our Faith Family to enter into this story of the early church, and for these stories to shape our story. It's going to be a great summer of worship in the park, and the inspirational Acts of the Apostles!

See you in church,  
Pastor Dave

### Stewardship Matters



Early last year, Faith Lutheran celebrated paying off our 25-year mortgage on Phase I of our building project in just 10 years! It was a marvelous testament to the congregation's generous and faithful stewardship. It enabled us to begin planning for Phase II of the project, years before we ever thought it would be possible.

Unfortunately, now just as that process is starting, inflation is roaring for the first time in years and the stock markets have dropped sharply. So much for great timing!

Given that, however, it is intriguing to note that the centerpiece of Phase II is a new sanctuary, because economic times were also tough when our current sanctuary was built. It was constructed in 1938, which was no longer the depths of the Great Depression, but well before the economy had fully recovered from that long devastation. Yet, even in those difficult days, God provided ample resources for the ministry needs of this congregation. We can count on God to continue to provide the resources we need today.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN LIBRARY SQUARE

**SUNDAYS  
10:10 A.M.  
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11**

If you prefer to worship in the great indoors, the First Word service still meets in the sanctuary each Sunday at 8:00 a.m.





# MUSIC THIS YEAR

We accomplished a lot this year in the music department! Outside of the normal church rhythm, here is what went on:

Faith Lutheran Concert Series  
151st Anniversary Celebration

Faith Singers Advent concert  
Ukraine Benefit Concert

1st annual *Messiah* concert



and more yet to come....

## **What's coming up?**

Worship in the Park  
Outdoor music events  
Special guest singers and more!

**Stump the Pastor**



Q: *I see some people in church and even the pastors sometimes make the sign of the cross. Isn't that a Roman Catholic practice? Why are Lutherans doing it?*

A: Making the sign of the cross is a central practice of Roman Catholic piety and, in practice, it has been associated almost entirely with Catholics. It was never intended, however, to be off limits to Lutherans and other Christians.

At the time of the Reformation, the attempt by Martin Luther and his colleagues to reform the Catholic Church (which at that time was the only Christian Church in all of Europe) sadly resulted in sharp and enduring divisions, instead. One unfortunate result of that was that several otherwise good practices were discarded simply because they were “too Catholic.” Among them was making the sign of the cross.

To be sure, there was a legitimate critique that signing the cross had seemed to become more of an unconscious habit or even a kind of superstition than a genuine expression of faith, but the decision to reject it entirely was a serious over-reaction. It has deprived Lutherans of an important and powerful reminder of God’s covenant promise in Holy Baptism that we have “received the sign of the cross on our heads and on our hearts” and have “been marked with the cross of Christ forever.”

In *The Small Catechism*, Luther prefaced his Morning Prayer by saying, “In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say...” Likewise, his Evening Prayer begins, “In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say...” Other occasions that tie directly to the promise of Holy Baptism, such as being absolved of our sin or receiving the Lord’s Supper are also appropriate times to make the sign of the cross. Obviously, there is no requirement to do so, but it does demonstrate, not our piety before God, but God’s gracious, saving promise to us, rooted in our baptismal covenant.



**The Rummage Sale:  
A Word of Thanks and More**

Thank you to the men, women, and youth who took time to collect items for the rummage sale, distributed fliers, helped with set up and clean up, worked at the sale, hauled items, and helped in many other ways.

There were at least 80 volunteers, who put in approximately 670 total hours. The profit was \$5,916.00. The best part was that many cleaned out, received things they love, and much joy came from working together.

**FOR SALE:** An antique square table not sold at the rummage sale is for sale.  
It can be seen in the gathering space by the church office.  
Make an offer to Bobbi at 320-587-2227.





## Augustana District (AD) Partnership with Tabor Congregation in Hawassa, Ethiopia FLC Partners with the AD in Powerful Witness

Augustana District signed an agreement back in January 2014 to support the Tabor congregation in expanding their mission outreach throughout Ethiopia. Through your prayers and financial support, we have witnessed the amazing expansion of their outreach ministries over the last eight years.

### A Partner that Keeps Living Under the Call of Our Lord's Great Commission

The Tabor congregation was founded in 1995 with 350 members. Through its ever-growing outreach throughout Ethiopia, it has given birth to 33 new congregations.

This year, the church set a goal of reaching out to 16,800 non-Christians in witness to Jesus Christ. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, it has already reached out to 3,342 people, with 122 of these individuals drawn into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

This year, Tabor has trained 29 full-time ministers and 63 part-time ministers, for a total of 92 outreach ministers. These outreach ministers are deployed to strategic locations throughout Ethiopia.



### Does Tabor Congregation Still Need Augustana District Support?

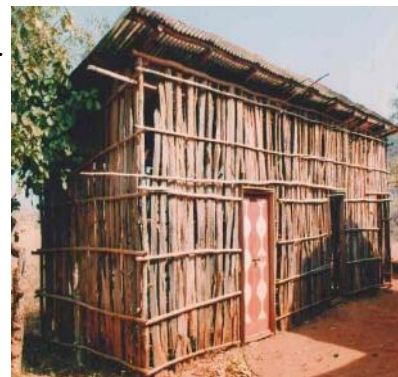
Our Lord will lead Tabor forward with or without us by its side. However, there is no doubt that our support of indigenous witnesses in this part of the world has accelerated its growth at a time when the world is becoming increasingly dangerous and divided. Our support and encouragement will continue to multiply greatly the determined efforts to “go therefore and make disciples . . .” Their leaders are ever so grateful for Augustana District's partnership.



### Updates from Pastor Meseret, Head of Tabor's Outreach Program

Pastor Meseret recently explained Tabor's evangelism training program. It has several key components that include how to reach individuals from various religions (including Islam) with the Gospel, discipleship making, church planting, self-support, self-reliance, self-propagation, and self-administration. He explained

many of the challenges they are facing. Although recent civil unrest in Ethiopia has settled down, there remains a lot of tension, especially in the northern Tigray Region. The area coordinator of that region was recently captured and spent eight months in jail before being released. Despite the dangers, churches and evangelists are expanding into the northern regions of Ethiopia. One such church is in the Aba Calla region of Ethiopia and another in the Wabo Abaya region, as shown in these photos. As if that isn't challenging enough, there are parts of the country that are experiencing a serious famine that is resulting in starvation. Despite all of these challenges, Pastor Meseret is encouraged by the large numbers of Ethiopians that are coming to Christ through their outreach efforts.



### Calls to Strengthen Our Partnership

The AD Board of World Missions is ever so thankful for your generosity and support of this mission. We live at a time when Christians in these faraway places are being persecuted more than ever. We need to stand side by side with our Ethiopian brothers and sisters as they witness to those longing for the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If you would like to learn more about the Tabor Mission (and how you can help out), please feel free to reach out to Pastor Paul Knudson ([paulk@faithlc.com](mailto:paulk@faithlc.com)) or Eric Knutson ([eknutson@lynncard.com](mailto:eknutson@lynncard.com)). They would be happy to get back to you.



## ***Say hello to our summer interns!***



### ***Emma Wollan***

Graduated HS 2018

Since high school, I have been attending Wheaton College in the Chicago area and majoring in Biblical and Theological studies. During the 2020-2021 school year, I decided to take the year off and intern at Trinity Lutheran in San Pedro, CA., where I learned a lot about vocational ministry. During the past three summers, I have worked at Mount Carmel Ministries on the summer staff, and eventually as the Worship Coordinator. Since I took a year off, I still have one semester left to complete at Wheaton, and will be graduating in December of this year. I plan to pursue a vocation in ministry, and am currently deciding on how that will look. A favorite memory that I have from Faith would probably have to be the late summer nights when we would play board/card games and/or mafia and grog. One time, my friend and I were hiding under the choir robes for Sardines, and we waited so long to be found that we ordered a pizza. I'm super excited to be interning at Faith this summer! I grew up going to church and youth group at Faith, and so I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with the staff here and with the youth and kids.



### ***Kaitlyn Kellerman***

Graduated HS 2018

After high school, I attended two years of university before I realized that I didn't know what God wanted me to do with my life yet! In January of 2021, I attended a Discipleship Training School through YWAM - Youth With A Mission - in Kona, Hawaii!! This is where God really put a passion for ministry and evangelizing on my heart! After three months in Hawaii, learning about who God is and how to share His love, a team of ten other young adults and I went to Mexico to make God known and tell others about Jesus! I loved working with the youth in Mexico and being able to talk to them about who Jesus is. After I got back from YWAM, I brought home a Toy Australian Shepherd puppy, Finnley! He is now just over a year, and he goes everywhere with me! One of my favorite memories from Faith would be the 2017 mission trip to West Virginia. It was my first mission trip with Faith, and I remember one night we were singing "O Praise The Name" and I felt so connected to the Lord and to all of the people around me. Faith has been such an important part of my own faith journey, and I am so excited to see what God is going to do this summer!



### ***Allyssa Reid***

Graduated HS 2020

Hi everyone! After high school, I decided to continue my education at Minnesota State University Mankato (MSU). I started out pursuing an Exercise Science degree but changed my major to Physical Education-DAPE in Spring, 2021. I would say that I am passionate about healthy living and exercising, and I am excited to share that passion with my students someday, as well as working with students with disabilities. This fall, I will begin my third year at MSU. My favorite memory from Faith would definitely be going on the mission trips with the youth group. I had the chance to go on five mission trips throughout my days as a youth and I would say my favorite trip would have to be when we went to Montana in the summer of 2019 and served on the Blackfeet Native American Reservation. I also loved beginning each school year with the tradition of "Gutter Sundaes," at youth group.



# 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 Stadskev (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:

Faith Lutheran Church

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Cedar Crest – Silver Lake  
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Lucille Wehking

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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

New Haven - Maple Plain  
Ardell Novotny

Pines  
Elaine Blade  
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

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THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11.**

