

Faith Matters - August 2022



335 Main St. S.
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Phone: 320-587-2093
Email: office@faithlc.com

Pastors' Page

Special Congregational Meeting on August 3rd!

In case you haven't heard, the Church Council has called a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of deciding whether to purchase the house at 144 2nd Ave SE. Any real estate acquisitions need to be approved by congregational vote, and any member eighteen or older can vote. But before you can vote on whether or not the church acquires an old house, one big question needs to be answered:

WHY?

Why would we want to buy a house? Haven't we done this before and regretted it? What is the plan and purpose for buying a house?

I was hoping you would ask.

For many years now, Faith has been praying about and seeking ways that we can respond to the pastor shortage in the Lutheran church. How can we encourage young people for ministry? With many of the old residential seminary institutions no longer trustworthy, how can we ensure seminarians receive sound training and faithful community?

Over the past year, a vision has started to take shape. We call it Faith Greenhouse — a year-long, community-embedded internship for seminarians or ministry-curious young adults. The dream is for a community of interns sharing a rule of life-rhythms of prayer, worship, and fellowship — while immersing themselves in the rich variety of congregational opportunities that Faith Lutheran presents. Our conviction is that such a program would energize and enrich both the interns and the life of the congregation.

But we lacked two things: Intern candidates and a place to build that community. What we did NOT lack, however, is support. Over the last several months of 2021, and continuing still, the Faith Forward campaign raised almost \$85,000! Then, after Greenhouse was presented at a Digging Deeper session, an enthusiastic and generous donor pledged another \$100,000 to go towards securing housing! God is good!

But the real estate market was not! Homes were priced high and going fast, and the rental options were less appealing. Then, a couple weeks ago, a house caught my eye. It was in our price range and in our neighborhood. The odd configuration of the home — with its duplex layout - would be awkward for a family, but perfect for a bunch of interns. Its large living and dining room present a perfect place for young adults to gather for prayer, Bible study, meals, and fun.

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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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So here we are, presented with a possible opportunity from the Lord. It's an old house, and has its typical old-house issues. It will no doubt need some upgrades and some major TLC. We currently do not have a bunch of interns beating down the door, but this might give us a door for them to beat. It's exciting and anxious all at the same time! That's why I urge you to make time in your busy summer schedules to join us at 6:30 p.m., on Wednesday, August 3, to ask questions, to be informed, to pray, and to vote, whether it's - "yea" or "nay."

We'll see you in church (and at the meeting!)

Pastor Dave



Greetings, friends!

You may recall last month's article about the obligation and privilege we have of worshiping in community as the body of Christ. Now I challenge you to think about *how* we worship in that community. Whether you attend the First Word, Sanctuary, or Foundation service, there is something that draws you there and continues to call you back. It may be the friends and family you see, the music, or simply the time convenience that guides your presence in worship. But is that the purpose of worship? No! The Holy Spirit calls us to worship and forms our place in the body of Christ. Because of this, we are obligated to respond with vigor and dedication to live the life that God has intended for us. However, our sin gets in the way. We are reminded of this in the words spoken during our confession, "...we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves." Furthermore, partaking in the sacrament of Holy Communion and understanding that we receive mercy and forgiveness only through Christ's death on the cross should be the driving force behind our dedication to worship. I urge you to listen to the call of Holy Spirit and commit yourself to the discipline of regular worship. When we truly understand how much we need to confess and be forgiven through Word and Sacrament we will finally realize that worship becomes our chief priority. Music is uplifting, friends are inviting, and the schedule may be convenient, but it is Christ whom we need.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Austin

Ensemble Notes

Looking ahead, Ringers of Faith will meet every Tuesday starting September 6 at 5:15 p.m. Faith Singers will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays beginning September 7, at 5:15p.m. Anyone interested in joining either ensemble is welcome. Both will meet in the music room.



In its history, Faith Lutheran has established a long record of taking on bold projects and initiatives that may well have seemed crazy at the time. From building a new sanctuary during the Great Depression, to voluntarily splitting so that many of its members could help found Christ the King, to starting the New Hope Mission Society and the Hope Center, to taking leadership to reform the larger church, Faith has rarely shied away from a visionary challenge. It is an exemplary record of faithful stewardship of the gifts and the call God has given Faith.

Well, hang onto your hats, because the fun isn't ending any time soon. Today, Faith once again has an array of projects and programs before it. We hope to complete Phase II of our building despite

economic stresses. We are trying to establish an innovative internship experience called Greenhouse, not just in spite of our location in a small, outstate town, but precisely because of that. We are offering all the support we can to smaller churches in our area who need pastoral or other ministry support, even though our own staff already has full plates.

There are other visionary possibilities that have only made it to the drawing board so far, all of which seem really compelling, but also stretch our available resources. As we sort through and discern how to tackle all these possibilities, the faithful commitment of prior generations of Faith and, even more, God's steadfast provision through the years of all the resources needed for this ministry, provide confidence, hope and an exciting sense of adventure as we continue to prove together how much stewardship matters.



WORSHIP SERVICES BROADCAST ON KDUZ ARE CHANGING

Starting July 31, a change is coming to your morning airwaves. After 70 years of live broadcast of our 8 a.m. service on KDUZ, due to changes at the radio station, we will now be broadcasting a recording of the previous week's service. More and more radio stations are moving away from live broadcasts, preferring pre-recorded, and thus pre-programmed content. We are disappointed that we won't be live on the radio anymore, but thankful that you will still be able to hear worship services on KDUZ.

Hutchinson Community Video Network

Nuvera 7 & 907HD and 10 & 910HD | Mediacom 7 or 107.2 and 8 or 107.3

HCVN CHANGE

In light of the KDUZ change, we are working to add a live broadcast of our 10:10 a.m. services on HCVN television. That way, our homebound members or snowbirds would still have a live option on Sunday mornings, albeit at a later time. Stay tuned for more information about this.



Stump the Pastor

Q: *In the past, the Jews recorded everyone and everything that happened. So why is Jesus or what he did not in any of the records?*

A: This question seems simple and straightforward, but the answer has several layers to it. The Jewish people were thorough and careful historians. The Old Testament is filled with genealogies that record long family lines. Authors told (and sometimes *re-told*, as in I and II Chronicles) Israel's history with honesty and insight. In fact, one Jewish

historian named Josephus does mention Jesus and John the Baptist in his works, although he concluded wrongly that John was the more important person.

In another sense, though, Jesus is named in Jewish sources, repeatedly. It is just that he appears *prophetically*, not *explicitly*. That is, only after his life, death and resurrection did it become clear that Jesus had fulfilled many of the promises that Israel's prophets had made. God did not tell them ahead of time exactly *how* or *when* He would fulfill the promises he gave them to speak. So the prophets never name Jesus of Nazareth nor does he appear in any genealogy, but Christians can look back and recognize that he fulfilled all of God's promises to send a Messiah to save the world, and how all of God's work in Israel culminated in Jesus.

A third, tragic aspect of the answer is that once God did send Jesus, most Jewish people did not believe he was the Messiah. Jesus failed to meet any of the popular expectations of what the Messiah would do. Worse yet, they were certain that he was cursed by God, because he died on a cross. (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) So, even during and after Jesus' life, Jewish historians had little incentive to record Jesus' name or anything he did.

Blessedly, though, that was not true of *all* Jewish historians. We know little or nothing personally about the four evangelists who wrote accounts of Jesus' life, but their books show that they were all firmly grounded in the Old Testament and the history of Israel. The earliest Christian Church was made up entirely of Jewish people who believed that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. St. Paul was a devout Jewish rabbi who personally wrote almost a third of the New Testament. God inspired these faithful recorders of Jesus' life and its significance so that Christians down to our own day could "come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:21)



Light Shining in the Darkness Lifts Spirits for Eyes to See
A Mission Reflection from Pastor Paul Knudson

Sometimes we simply need to look up and out, and we can see and experience brilliant light shining in lands of deep darkness. Recently, before calling it a night, I picked up the current issue of *Christianity Today* magazine. After being immersed in too much reading of the overwhelming darkness that has too often blinded me to the light piercing the darkness, I happened upon an amazing series of stories of Christians lightening the dark days of Ukrainian refugees.

The country of Poland has cultural ties to Ukraine, but with an influx of three million refugees pouring across the border since February. 24, one would expect deep resentment drowning out little glimmers of kindness. Instead, the author of this article lifted my spirits with story after story of light shining in the darkness.

One tenth of one percent of the Polish population is evangelical Christian. Yet through these Christians, often with leadership from Christians who had emigrated to Poland in the past from Ukraine, an outpouring of love and care was meeting needs of people in despair. Indeed, many others in Poland were funneling resources through these evangelical Christians to meet needs that could only have poured forth through Divine inspiration.

When you become discouraged in well doing or possibly angered by all that seems to be darkening your life in this troubled world and time, I encourage you to look up and out to read or see stories that will inspire your spirit. Some of those stories are being created among us in this place through this congregation. Others are being created through people who light up the darkness through their witness. As we lift up our eyes, and the Spirit opens up our hearts to bring light into the darkness, all is brighter. Jesus Christ be praised. His beloved children near and far experience His Light. Thanks be to God.



An Update from Katie Weikle and YWAM Nuremberg

Initially, we housed fifty Ukrainians in dorm rooms typically used by our mission students, but are now down to twenty. With thousands of people within the city on waitlists, it has been difficult for Ukrainians to find housing. We have students coming in October, but will continue to house all Ukrainians that need our help.



We have opened a welcome center for all Ukrainians in our city. It offers basic information and guidance, German language lessons, and has a thrift store with clothing and other household wares. This center has also made it possible for us to connect Ukrainians to churches in the city.



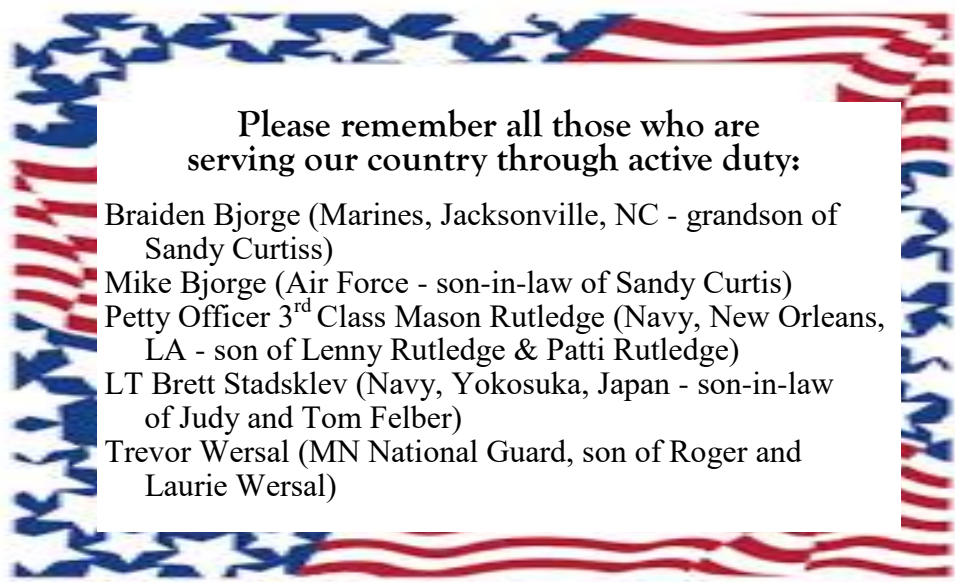
We were able to send van loads of donated food, medicine, and mattresses every week in March, April, and May to our co-workers at the YWAM locations in Ternopil and Kyiv, where it was then delivered to hundreds of towns in Ukraine. It has been a blessing to work with and support our brave, tired friends working there.

We are about to send a second team to Ukraine to deliver primarily medical supplies, driving a new van that will remain in Ukraine after the trip. This team will be much closer to the front line than the first team was, who went from Nuremberg and served for two weeks in June.

We hope to help repair and rebuild homes in Ukraine before winter arrives.

Thank you Faith Lutheran for your continued prayers and support of YWAM!

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, 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
INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY
 335 Main St. S. 320-587-2093 FaithLC.com

Pastors		
Scott Gorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
Jeff Amundson, Pastoral Intern	320-587-2093 (office)	jeffa@faithlc.com
Staff		
Marsha Schmit, Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism	marshas@faithlc.com	
Austin Willhite, Director of Music & Worship	austinw@faithlc.com	
Kristen Durst, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	kristenm@faithlc.com	
Laura Stowman, Director of Children & Family Ministry	lauras@faithlc.com	
Wendy Magruder, Administrative Assistant	wendym@faithlc.com	
Sara Wegner, Finance Coordinator	finco@faithlc.com	
Owen Weikle, Custodial Services Coordinator	320-587-2093	

- Cedar Crest - Silver Lake
Patricia Lambert
Lucille Wehking
- Cokato Nursing Home
Clara Betker
- Grand Meadows—Glencoe
Rose Wagner
- Harmony River
Phyllis Lamp
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
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Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
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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

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN LIBRARY
SQUARE ON SUNDAYS, AT 10:10 A.M.
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 11.**

