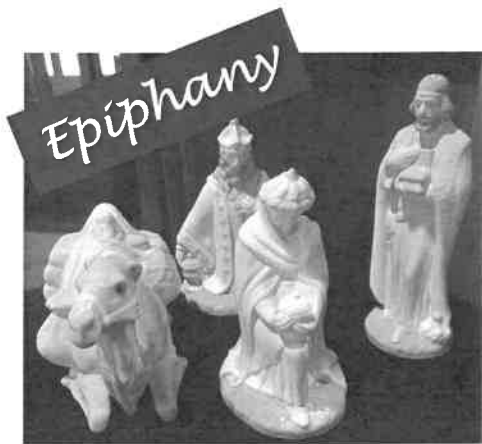


# Faith Matters

## January 2023



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Hutchinson, MN 55350  
Phone: 320-587-2093  
Email: office@faithlc.com

### Pastors' Page

**RADIO BROADCAST**  
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.  
KDUZ 1260 AM  
(PRE-RECORDED)

**TV BROADCAST**  
LIVE  
SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.  
NUVERA & MEDIACOM  
ON CH. 7

PRE-RECORDED  
SERVICES  
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
AND 5 P.M.  
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.  
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.  
HCVN CH. 10  
MEDIACOM CH. 8

YOUTUBE SERVICE  
RECORDINGS  
POSTED SUNDAY  
AFTERNOONS



YouTube



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Digging Deeper Stump the Pastor	5
Children and Youth	Insert
Calendar	Insert
And So Much More!	

### Resolve to Worship

Happy New Year, Faith Lutheran! You look great!

Seriously, I mean it. You're looking good. So as you're contemplating those New Year's resolutions this year, save some money on that health club membership. There is a better resolution for you. And if you're one of those people who likes to pick a word or two of the year, I've got the perfect word for you: **WORSHIP!**

There's your word, and there's your resolution for the year. Trust me, if you let this word guide you and resolve to make it a part of your life, it will change your life for the better!

Continued on page 2

PCA Memes

# Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

Here's the deal; church, we have a worship problem. Despite powerful sermons with great Vikings jokes, wonderful music, absolution and sacraments, and great people, we are not seeing as many people in worship as we should! I think that there are a number of factors contributing to this. COVID caused many people and families to fall out of the habit of regular worship. Sports continue to infringe upon Sunday mornings—and we continue to let them! People are so busy the other six days of the week that they choose to sleep in and relax on Sundays. Little kids make it hard to sit through worship. I get it! I've struggled through some of those same issues. But here's the thing: **Those aren't good excuses!** All of those things are valid and important, but not as important as worshipping God and receiving His gifts! Refer to the handy-dandy chart on the cover.

Worship will change your life. The power of forgiven sins, the Lord's Supper, and the word of God proclaimed to you will not only fill you with peace and joy, but scientists have shown that it actually can make you more intelligent!

So come and worship. Worship regularly. Worship weekly. Make it a priority. Bring your family. You need it! And we need you here!

See you in Church!

Pastor Dave



## Potluck Dinner



## Seniors' Scene

"I just got used to writing 2022 on my check blanks." "I can't believe it's 2023 already!" "It's New Year...already?" Have you heard any such comments, as I have. "Where did 2022 go?" is another one. Time doesn't stand still. I think I've noticed that more since retiring. Time whizzes by! So Happy New Year everyone!

On the positive side, each of us has received another gift from God. To be alive and kicking means God has given us life. He does this day after day, until He receives us at the end of our lives. We do not need to guess when that will be. I was speaking with an older senior citizen recently who said, "Every morning I wake up I tell God thanks for bringing me to this new day. But I don't know how many days this will continue." Good attitude. That is

in God's hands and wisdom.

Guess what? It's a new year for Seniors' Potluck meetings, too. We have a stellar list of programs for January through May, 2023. It begins with Pr. Dave coming to our meeting on **Thursday, January 26** to help us better understand our mission through "GREENHOUSE" at the Ansgar House. One of the biggest issues in the church at large, including LCMC, is the need for ordained pastors. There simply aren't enough to go around; especially since there are so many small congregations in rural areas, and many older pastors are approaching retirement. Greenhouse is a valiant effort to address this need, through use of the resources and personnel we are fortunate to have here at FLC. This could well be a huge answer to encouraging young people to discern if God is leading them to move toward ordained ministry.

Come to **Seniors' Potluck: Thursday, January 26, beginning with potluck dinner at 12:00 noon.** See you there!

## With Joy and Thanksgiving for Strong Mission Witness

Reflections from Pastor Paul



2022 has had its challenges, both here at home and for those extending our witness to Jesus Christ in word and deed in faraway places. You as members of FLC have remained faithful and generous in offerings and in giving food and clothing to meet needs locally. Thank you for making this outreach witness possible.

There are reasons for particular thanksgiving among the partners we support in Ethiopia. They have recently been facing a civil war that has tested the nation, but also those we support. We hope and pray that the strife and threat to life and Christian witness is now over. The president of one of the Augustana District's partners had to flee for his life twice due to death threats. He and the congregations of his synod are relieved that now they can recover and focus on their evangelical outreach.

Similar stories could be told of the challenges facing our partners in India, Madagascar, and Estonia. Financial support that we share gives encouragement to those facing life-and-death issues. On behalf of these partners, thank you for seeing beyond your own needs to meet the needs of brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Through Common Cup Ministries people are fed, clothed, and much more. The \$6,500 that Faith budgets is a leadership gift among congregations. Over \$1,500 has been given to Common Cup through our recent Hunger Appeal. We have also assisted a local charity begun by some women of FLC, Wings, to help children in the foster care program. Crisis needs for temporary housing is also happening through another local effort, HOMES.

Much more could be said, but be encouraged that our faithfulness and generosity make huge differences in countless lives. This is cause for joy and thanksgiving.

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### November Hunger Appeal Totals

Our goal for this year was to raise a minimum of \$5,000. We are thrilled to announce that \$7,800 was given in November. Of that amount, 45% will be shared locally through Common Cup Ministries. International partners will receive 55% of the offerings: 35% will go to the Bishara Center in India through New Hope Mission Society and the last 20% will be sent to the Friends Of Madagascar Mission. Thank you for your generous gifts in support of these missions.

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### Missions are Alive at Faith!

Our friends in India are very busy and want to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and celebration of Jesus' birth. May it provide hope and encouragement for the coming year. Our prayers and support over the last year are greatly appreciated, as is the opportunity to visit with many here during Abdul's stay in the U.S. He has arrived back home in India in time for Christmas and is joyously reunited with both his family and mission family.



Going forward into 2023, prayers are much needed as the mission remains under great pressure from non-Christians and the government of India. There will be many new challenges next year and our support is more critical than ever. There are many goals for next year including continued development of the teaching institute, growing the outreach to home churches and relief for many needy individuals. Sharing God's Word together with sharing of food and God's love remain the primary focuses. May God continue to bless their efforts and our ability to donate support. Thanks be to God for His Son and love for all of us.



Blessing to you and a Happy New Year  
from the Music Department at Faith!

**Stewardship Matters**



For the first time in several years, Faith Lutheran faced a big deficit in the General Fund. So far, the response

of the congregation has been amazing. From an original need of \$232,000, just \$75,000 still remains at this writing. We are hopeful that the church will be able to break even on the year. **Thank You** for your faithful support of the ministry God has entrusted to us here at Faith Lutheran Church.



**Faith Lutheran Church**

**Annual Meeting**

*Sunday, January 29, 12 noon*

FL Youth will be serving lunch after the 10:10 a.m. services for those who wish to eat between worship and the meeting. This meeting does need a quorum to be able to vote on any church business so it is important that you attend. This meeting typically lasts about an hour.

**Plus One Challenge**

As 2023 begins, how might you include the Plus One Challenge among your new year's resolutions? As we seek to follow our Lord who entered the world at Christmas, what one additional commitment might He be calling you to make? Worship one more Sunday a month? Get involved in one Bible study or ministry at Faith? Add one faith practice to your daily life at home? Pray for God to lead you to a Plus One commitment that will strengthen your faith and devotion.



**Thank You from the  
Faith Lutheran Church Women**

- ◆ The FLCW would like to thank everyone who participated in the December annual meeting.
- ◆ Thank you also to those who helped with the Christmas lunch by decorating tables, preparing food, and coming to celebrate together.
- ◆ A final thank you to those who helped with the December community meal.

*All of you are truly amazing.*



**Snow Birds: *Are you a snowbird? Will you be heading south soon?***

Please make sure to let the office know when you are leaving and when you will return, so giving statements, envelopes, newsletters, etc. are sent to the correct address.

You can easily update your information by calling the office at 320-587-2093 or sending an e-mail to [office@faithlc.com](mailto:office@faithlc.com).



## Parent Huddle:

Christmas has come and gone, and now the snow seems to pile up higher and higher as we go through these seemingly endless winter months. The Christmas lights and the homey decorations are put away, the festive food no longer is being made, and the joyful expectation of Christmas fades away. It is really easy to fall into what I like to call the Winter Blues. What I want to offer you this winter are some tangible things you can do to counter those feelings and bring forth joy in this time of waiting for spring.

1. Get outside and enjoy the snow. There are so many incredible snow opportunities to enjoy. Go tubing, snow-shoeing, or ice-skating. We can't change how much snow we have, but we can always change the attitude about the snow we have. A New Year's Resolution that I have made for myself is to visit Minnesota State Parks at least once a month. I am making it my goal to visit them all in my lifetime and I am trying to start strong in 2023.
2. Keep in contact with your family and friends. Though the holidays may drain your tolerance for people, my encouragement to you is to contact the people that fill your cup rather than empty it. Sometimes a good phone call or time together over a cup of coffee can push those winter blues away!
3. Set up family time together. Whether taking a trip or just watching a movie together, any time that you have together will be a time of respite that will bring forth joy.
4. Take care of yourself! Get good sleep, do a devotion, eat well, and get moving throughout the day. It is so important to prioritize your health—emotional, physical, and spiritual!

None of these things are an immediate or easy fix when you feel low. We are here to support you and your family in all seasons, good and bad! Most importantly, the Lord is with you always. He sees you in the low points and high points of life. We hope that you cling to Him, the giver of true peace and joy.

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



## Sunday School Offering

This fall, the Sunday School offering went to the shipping cost of Operation Christmas Child boxes. Each box costs \$10 to be shipped to a child in need. We were so grateful for the offering that was received.

For the rest of the school year, the Sunday School offering will be donated to Heifer International.

Heifer International works to give animals to families living in poverty around the world. Heifer does this because livestock has a really important role to play in ending global hunger and poverty. By giving animals to families, Heifer helps provide nutritious food, generate income, help women thrive, give renewable energy, and help against climate change!

Our goal is to see what animal or animals we are able to give!

Here is a list of animals and what they cost: Flock of chicks (\$20), Ducks (\$20), Honeybees (\$30), Goat (\$120), Pig (\$120), Sheep (\$120), Alpaca (\$150), Water Buffalo (\$250), and Heifer (\$500).



## Questions?

If you have questions about programs for children birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry.

If you have questions about programs for 7<sup>th</sup> grade through young adult, please contact Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry.



## High School FLY Night

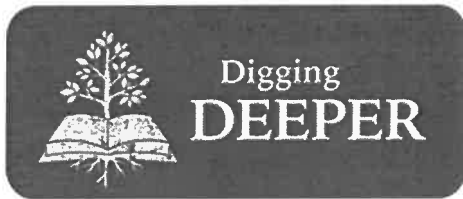
Our kickoff for the mission trip this summer is beginning with a meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Faith Center. There is still time to sign up! Any current 8<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> graders can sign up!

### TRIP DETAILS

July 7—15, 2023  
\$550/participant  
Logan County, WV

Reach out to Kristen if you have any questions!





**“Faith Seeks Understanding”**  
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults

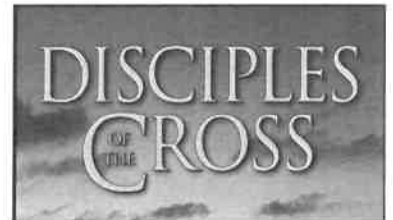
***The Wonder, Worth,  
and Workings of Worship***

Why is worship essential to who we are? Why is it worth committing time to worship on a weekly basis? What is happening in worship that we may not realize? This class unpacks and explores these questions and more, as Pastor Dave shares some of his Doctor of Ministry research. The class will begin on January 8 with a special session led by our Worship Director, Austin, and then Pastor Dave will lead the remaining sessions. Join us in the Faith Center.



***“Disciples of the Cross”***

The word disciple means a follower. Beyond the 12 disciples, it describes all Christians who hear Jesus’ call to “pick up your cross and *follow me.*” But what does it mean for us to be disciples of Jesus? What characterizes a life of discipleship? Based on a study by Rev. Steve King, this class will explore an understanding of discipleship in light of Lutheran theology. Meeting from January 8 to February 19 in the third-floor conference room.



*Q: Matthew 1:18 says “Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together,” but v. 19 says, “her husband Joseph,” then v. 24 says Joseph “took her as his wife.” How could Joseph be Mary’s husband if they were only engaged, and if he was already her husband, how could he have married her?*

*A: The terms Matthew uses in his account of Christmas are confusing, but only because they reflect very different wedding customs than what we have today. In first-century Judaism, a couple moved through three different stages on the way to marriage.*

First, they were *engaged*, a promise to marry that was often arranged by their parents. It could be done when the bride and/or groom were still children and could last for years.

The second stage was *betrothal*. A betrothed couple did not yet live together or consummate their marriage, yet the betrothal had the same legal force as a marriage. It could be dissolved only by divorce and only if one partner was unfaithful. That was Joseph’s fear when he learned Mary was pregnant and why he “planned to dismiss her quietly.”

The third state was *marriage*, when they were officially wedded and began their lives together. It was this third stage that Jesus attended with his disciples at Cana in John 2.

So, in Matthew 1, the word “engaged” in v. 18 should technically read “betrothed.” It was the second, legally binding stage of Mary and Joseph’s path to marriage. Matthew calls Joseph her husband because their betrothal was as legally binding as a marriage. Still, it was only after God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream that they were actually married, so only then that he “took her as his wife.”



## Other Important January Announcements

### Church Nursery Worker

#### **Qualifications**

- ◇ Age 18 or older
- ◇ High school diploma, GED or equivalent
- ◇ References: Three references by persons who have observed the applicant in similar childcare situations are required.
- ◇ Background Check: Background checks will be required for employment with Faith Lutheran Church.

#### **Responsibilities**

- ◇ Role: Create and maintain an atmosphere in which constructive play can take place in a safe and inviting environment.
- ◇ Supervisor: This position reports to the Director of Children and Family Ministries.
- ◇ Responsible for providing age appropriate child care to children ages 0-3 years old from 8:45-11:45 a.m. on Sundays.
- ◇ Responsible for helping all children to:
  - a) feel accepted
  - b) learn rules and limits of group interaction
  - c) understand how to share with and care for others
  - d) feel good about themselves and their experience in the nursery
  - e) know that adults will treat them with patience, respect and concern for their welfare.
- ◇ Responsible for maintaining control in the nursery in a manner reflecting the philosophy of the church—setting and maintaining reasonable limits for the group welfare in as warm and positive a way as possible.
- ◇ Responsible for interacting with the children in play at all times.
- ◇ Responsible for cleaning toys and organizing supplies.
- ◇ Responsible for arriving at the nursery facility on time as scheduled.
- ◇ Additional hours for special events may be available occasionally.

If you, or someone you know is interested in this position, please contact Pastor Scott Grorud at [scottg@faithlc.com](mailto:scottg@faithlc.com) or 320-587-2093 for more information or to submit a résumé.



Christ the King and Faith Lutheran present:

### Save the Date ~ Winter Retreat

Sign up today for the Faith and Christ the King Winter Family Retreat at Mount Carmel!

Enjoy a fun-filled weekend away at beautiful Mt. Carmel Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN. There will be teaching and activities for all ages, as we explore “The Victorious Life(?)” Since Faith Lutheran is a Mt. Carmel Proclaimer congregation, we enjoy a half-price discount, so the cost will be \$100 per adult and \$50 per child, with a family cap of \$350. Space is limited, so register soon by contacting Pastor Dave Wollan at [davidw@faithlc.com](mailto:davidw@faithlc.com) or by calling 320-587-2093.





# Please Remember in Prayer



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

Phyllis Lamp  
Ruth Larson

Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen

Fran Lundeen

Karol Nolte

Jean Pittman

Rose Wagner

Meeker Manor–Litchfield

Darlene Horrmann

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  
Barb Max  
Cyndy Ollrich

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)

Gerald Kaddatz (National Guard, southern boarder of the United States, son of Darlene Horrmann)

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)

## Faith Lutheran Church

### INFORMATION & STAFF DIRECTORY

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Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com
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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?**

With Postage going up again  
would you be willing to receive  
your *Faith Matters* 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  
a request to [office@faithlc.com](mailto:office@faithlc.com)

