



Faith Matters

July 2023



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Pastors' Page

Sabbatical Reflections: Our "Grandparent" Community

"What was the best part?"

That's the question I have been repeatedly asked regarding my sabbatical trip to Scotland and London. That's a tough question to answer! There's a lot to choose from:

- ⇒ The beauty and holiness of Iona
- ⇒ The specular cathedrals
- ⇒ The serenity of the Iona Abbey
- ⇒ The rich history of London
- ⇒ And, of course, all the delicious food!

But I think one experience, in particular, stands out above all the rest. While in London, my friend, Pastor Nathan Hoff, and I were privileged to be invited to evening worship with the Community of St. Anselm at Lambeth Palace, and then join the community for dinner.



When the current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, began serving in that capacity in 2013, he desired to make Lambeth Palace a place of prayer. Lambeth is the London residence of the Archbishop. So Welby founded the Community of St. Anselm, a residential, year-long program for young adults based at Lambeth Palace. They describe it as a transformative year of shared life, prayer, study and service. They are in their eighth year and have had over 100 young adults from all over the world participate. It was this program that inspired Pastor Nathan to begin the young adult intern community program at Trinity Lutheran in San Pedro, CA.

The evening worship was in the crypt, a beautiful space on the lower level of the palace. After worship we received a tour of the grounds and then were welcomed into one of the residences for supper. It was a joy to dine with these faithful young adults and hear about their experiences. There were young adults from Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, England, Uganda, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, and St.



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

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

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

YOUTUBE SERVICE
RECORDINGS
POSTED SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS

YouTube



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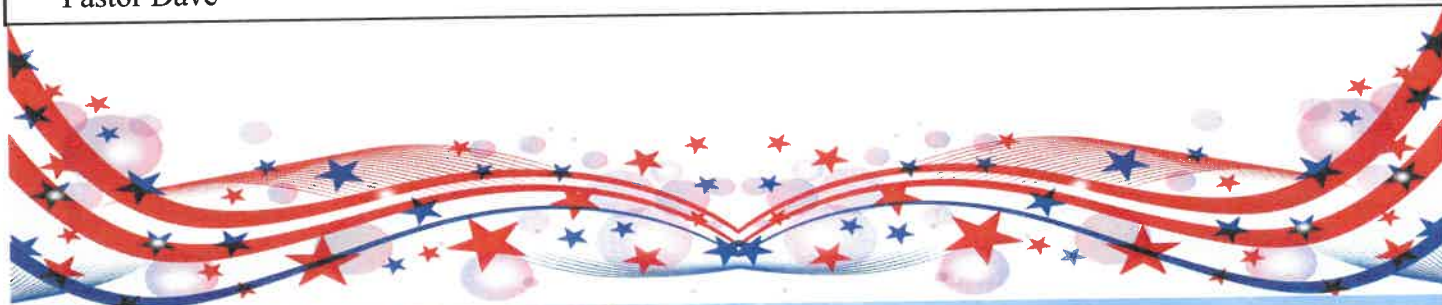
Thomas, led by Sisters Marie and Paschal from France. They were joy-filled, and fun!

As we were getting ready to leave, Sister Marie and Sister Paschal expressed their excitement for our Faith Lutheran Internship Program. They promised to be in prayer for us, and then made the connection that we are their grandchild program! The Anselm Community begat The Trinity Community, which begat the Faith Community! It was a humorous and meaningful connection.

There were so many sites, so many great experiences, and so much good food, but making this connection with a like-minded community across the globe was truly meaningful! I'm excited to continue our relationship with these partners in young adult ministry!

It's good to be back!
See you in church,

Pastor Dave



Phase II Building Committee (P2BC)

The committee members have been sifting through a mountain of feedback from Faith Lutheran's elected leaders in order to narrow down priorities and possibilities for Phase II of the building project. They will meet with the architect again soon to develop a proposal to show the congregation. In the meantime, the committee would welcome any questions, concerns or ideas from the Faith family!





Q: I heard someone refer to this time of the church year as “the long green season.” What does that mean?

A: Christian worship services have always tried to appeal to all five of our senses. One way they engage our sight is by using different colors for the various seasons of the church calendar. During the first half of the year, from Advent through Holy Trinity Sunday, the colors change frequently, from blue to white to green to purple to red. Each color has a symbolic meaning that reflects the season. For example, Lent’s color is purple because it represents both royalty and suffering. That fits the time each

year when we witness Jesus, our king, suffering and dying on the cross to save the world.

Starting the week after Holy Trinity, however, the color green is used without a break for six to seven months. (The only exceptions are Reformation Sunday and All Saints’ Sunday, but they are festivals that take precedence over what would otherwise be regular “green” Sundays.) The official name of “the long green season” varies. Some churches call it Trinity, others Ordinary Time, or, as we do here at Faith, the Sundays after Pentecost.

The emphasis of this long season is growing in faith and understanding. The Gospel readings come from Jesus’ teaching, miracles and other events in his ministry, rather than following the course of his earthly life. The color green is used because it symbolizes life and growth. It is only by coincidence that this part of the church year always occurs during the heart of the growing season, ending shortly after harvest, but the earth’s lush green growth only reinforces the meaning and purpose of “the long green season.”

Stewardship Matters



Years ago, my (Pastor Scott’s) father was called to a church facing a severe financial crisis. At his first church council meeting there, the treasurer reported \$1,100.00 in unpaid bills and \$11.00 in funds on hand. (Today, that would equal \$9,100.00 in bills and \$91.00 in funds.) It resulted from a long struggle in which the church had slashed its spending, left part of its new building unfinished and eliminated all of its mission giving. Still, the financial situation got worse and worse.

Suddenly, the church president—without any prompting from my dad—moved that the church send 10% of all money on hand to the denominational mission fund. To my father’s greater surprise, the motion passed and the treasurer wrote a check for \$1.10 on the spot. That might seem trivial or even silly, but it marked a turning point for that church. Within a few years, not only was its own financial house in order, but it gave \$34,000 (equivalent to \$232,000 today!) for a special mission appeal.

Why was that \$1.10 gift so significant? First, it turned the church’s focus from anxiety over its lack of funds to trust in God’s steadfast blessing. It also lifted it out of a consuming anxiety about its survival to see its place in the wider mission of the Church. That little gift committed the church to “first-fruits” giving, too, making benevolence gifts first, off the top, rather than waiting to give out of whatever money was left over each month (which had most often been none at all).

Those same dynamics apply to individual Christians in our personal finances. Even when the economy is doing poorly, to focus on God’s abundance instead of our scarcity, to see how God blesses us to be a blessing to others, and to give a percentage of income (which is always more fair and usually more generous than giving flat dollar amounts) as a first-fruits gift will help make our finances a blessing instead of a burden. Of course, God does *not* promise to make you rich through this process, despite what certain preachers claim, but He does promise to provide all that you need and therefore calls you to place your trust firmly in Him and not in your possessions. This faithful Christian stewardship will bring joy in giving, lowered anxiety over our finances and a mission-driven purpose to our lives.

An Odd Take on a Familiar Story of Jesus: Rethinking Mission Witness

Pastor Paul Knudson



We at Faith Lutheran take a certain pride in our commitment to bear witness to Jesus Christ to those who are lost, near and far. Pastor Tim Keller, for many years a powerful witness to Christ in what would seem to be a tough mission field (New York City), recently died from pancreatic cancer. He brought home Christ as Savior and Lord to thousands of city dwellers that you would not expect to be responsive to proclamation centered in Christ.

What struck me as especially worthy of our stopping to reflect on our own witness was his take on a most familiar parable of Jesus that we know as the “Parable of the Prodigal Son.” Keller, through a mentor of his own, was led to see that Jesus’ intent in this parable is to give us a very different take on who he, Jesus, sees to be the lost son. We can easily resonate to Jesus being the good shepherd who goes out to find the lost sheep, the one who eats with tax collectors and other “sinners.” There are a whole lot of lost sons out there who in countless ways are messing up big time, living in sin.

Keller, however, believes that Jesus’ purpose in telling this story is to have us focus upon the elder brother, whom Jesus sees as truly the lost one. The elder brother and possibly we who are responsible, active members of churches, are lost, because, unlike our heavenly Father and His beloved Son, we may be disgusted with those who have wandered off into the far country. Our hearts in reality do not ache for the wayward younger brother. Our hearts cannot fathom that God desires mercy from us, not sacrifice, that our call is go out to that brother who has screwed up to bring him home.

Jesus longs for the elder brother also to come in to celebrate with his gracious Father and rejoice at the homecoming. We are lost precisely because we are not like our heavenly Father, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

If we want to know what drives our Christian brothers and sisters in places like Africa and India to reach out to Muslims, it is precisely because they see Muslims living under the law and in fear of a distant and angry Allah. They are witnessing to a whole lot of law-driven and yet miserable “elder brothers.” They are calling them home to Jesus Christ, who in grace and mercy dies as much for elder brothers as the brother we may see as the only lost one.

Questions?

Fellowship Against Cancer – FAcE Group



The FAcE group realizes the challenges related to cancer and together we go through several topics related to those recently diagnosed, in treatment, in recovery, or embracing the “new normal.” We offer shared experiences, general tips and advice, and support. Through faith and love, we embrace this time together. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at Faith Lutheran Church. A Zoom option is available to join virtually. You need not be a member of Faith Lutheran to participate.

If interested in this group, please contact Jeff Amundson or the Faith Lutheran Church office.

Jeff Amundson - Cell/Text: 320-766-3595 - E-mail jeffa@faithlc.com

Faith Lutheran Church phone: 320-587-2093

Worried?

Concerns?

Feeling Alone?



Why Mission Trips Matter

It seems to me as though we have just returned from last year's mission trip to Denver, Colorado and here we are gearing up again to hit the road to West Virginia. Each year, the mission trip brings so much anticipation as we build it all year long. From t-shirt designs, to fundraising, leaders committing, kids signing up, vans and trailers being reserved, and so much more that comes with it, the anticipation and excitement start to really bubble up right before the trip. Mission trips are essential to Faith Lutheran as our church cares about how we reach out. This is how our youth reach out.

Faith Lutheran has been sending youth on mission trips for years. This spring, I had the privilege to talk with some of our older members at Seniors' Potluck about why I believe mission trips are important and to share a few stories from some of those trips. Every trip we take is unique but there are essential pieces to each one. Fifteen passenger vans, Papa John's pizza, prayer partners, rubber bands, and van jams all make up the essentials for the first day. I love watching how our group blends together. Each participant and leader are different from the others, but I love watching how new friendships and relationships form. The best part of these trips is seeing how the participants begin to see Jesus in each other and in all whom we meet. Without the grace of God, we would not be able to take these trips.

As we get ready to go to Logan Country, West Virginia this summer, we ask you to please be in prayer for us in these specific ways:

- That deep community is fostered among the youth and leaders.
- That we hold humble hearts ready to serve and love authentically.
- That our faith may deepen as we see God at work in the community and in one another.
- That health, safety, and fun are had throughout the whole trip.

Thank you for supporting us on these trips, we could not do it without you.

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries



Back By Popular Demand! **Mugs and Muffins Returns**



Ladies: Dust off your mugs!

Save the Date: Saturday, August 5, 2023, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

In the Faith Center at Faith Lutheran Church

Plan now to bring your favorite mug and a friend to enjoy a beverage, a treat, and a time of gathering together as sisters in Christ. Our guest speaker, Sarah Hingst, will share her inspiring story.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Lawn mowing help is needed throughout the summer.

If you have time to take the FLC riding lawn mower for a trip around the block, stop in and sign up for a date to trim the yard.

Your help is appreciated!



Bell Choir Fundraiser Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Pie a Pastor/Staff Member fundraiser for the handbells. This event raised \$1,493 of the \$3,500 needed for the necessary repairs. Watch for the second of the three planned fundraisers coming this fall.



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)
Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny Rutledge & Patti Rutledge)
LT Brett Stadsklev (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

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Pastors

Scott Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
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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

Harmony River

Phyllis Lamp
Ellsworth Lorentzen
Jean Pittman
Rose Wagner

New Haven - Maple Plain

Ardell Novotny

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Pines

Elaine Blade
Milt Lueneburg

Woodstone

Dodie Fenske
Geraldine (Gerry) Grams
Barb Max
Cyndy Ollrich

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Summer Ministries are ramping up!



Bible Camp

Faith has 13 students attending Bible Camp this summer during the week of July 16—21 at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps.



Mystery Bus

July 24—26

For 5th through 7th grade students.
Currently full. Contact us if you would like to be added to the waiting list.



Day Camp

August 7—10 from 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church

for Kindergarten through 5th grade students.
Registration information available on the church website.

Faith Lutheran Church Website:

Faithlc.com ~ Registration forms found under the Children & Youth / Children Tabs.



God Squad

For 5th—7th grade students
on Wednesdays from 3:30 — 5 p.m.
June 14 through August 9.

Middle School Madness

For 5th—7th grade students at St. A's
on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m.—noon.
June 8 through July 27.

High School Tournaments of Tournaments

Wednesdays at Oak Heights
1:00—3:00 p.m. starting June 7
Rotating games each week;
teams are created at each individual church.

MISSION TRIP DETAILS

Spots still available.
July 7—15, 2023
\$550/participant
Logan County, WV

Reach out to Kristen if you have any questions or would like to participate!

FLYouth Night

For all high school students
on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Questions?

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

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