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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.
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RADIO BROADCAST
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.
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AFTERNOONS

The men's Bible study that meets early on Thursday mornings (*all men in the church are welcome to attend—hint, hint*) is currently doing a study of various Bible passages that illustrate Martin Luther's theological conviction called "the bondage of the will." It has been a challenging study, because Luther's insight cuts against the grain of natural human thought and most other Christian teaching. But, despite their puzzlement, the guys keep coming back each week!

The Bondage of the Will was the title of a book Luther wrote in 1525 and he considered it to be one of the most important works he ever produced. In it, he demonstrated that the human will is not free, but captive to sin and self. Only God's grace at work through the Gospel can free our wills and make them captive to God, instead. This belief is summed up in the prayer of confession we use in worship each week: "We confess that are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves."

While this study has been going on, I have read a couple of books and had several conversations that have reinforced Luther's profound insight into the human will and have also shown how distinctive Lutheran theology is within the wider Christian family. Not only do Luther's insights, drawn from the Bible passages that undergird them, ring true to human experience, but they also set Lutheran theology apart from Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant and Evangelical theology.

This distinctive theology has sometimes been called "the Lutheran difference." That is *not* an arrogant claim that Lutherans are the only true Christians, but rather that Lutheran theology is an important gift to the wider Christian Church. That makes it vitally important for Lutherans to understand and maintain our theological heritage so we can continue to offer it to the whole Church. As Mark Noll, a well-known church historian, but not himself a Lutheran, wrote thirty years ago in an essay he titled *The Lutheran Difference*, "To contribute as Lutherans in America, Lutherans must remain authentically Lutheran... To contribute as Lutherans in America, Lutherans must also find out how to speak Lutheranism with an American accent."

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Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

I often hear people say that all Christian churches are pretty much the same. I also know that some people think Lutheran pastors (present company very much included) are way too obsessed with Lutheran history and theology. But while there are obvious commonalities with every denomination that confesses orthodox Christian beliefs, there actually is a Lutheran difference, one that delves into the depth of human sinfulness and the radical power of the Gospel alone to free us from it, with a power that is unmatched in other corners of the Church. So, as the family of Faith, let's embrace, learn and marinate in that theological treasure, not at all in an insular way that turns us in on ourselves, but as witnesses to the world of the unique and transformative grasp of God's saving work in Jesus Christ that is "the Lutheran difference."

Grace and peace,
Pastor Scott Grorud

Ansgar House Update

The inaugural group of Faith Lutheran interns move into the Ansgar House at the end of the month! We could not be more excited to welcome Courtney, Trevor, and Joshua! That said, there's a bit more that we need to do over at the Ansgar House before they can move in. You know what that means: **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

There are three ways you can help:

Financially:

Up until now, we have been able to complete the purchase and renovating of the Ansgar House with the gifts given during the Faith Forward Campaign back in 2021. However, there are a few things left on the list that are going to exceed the funds in that account. Those items include:

- Repairing the fascia and soffits and installing gutters
- Removing a big tree in the back yard
- Installing carpet in the main-level bedrooms

All three projects need to be done, and we received some very affordable bids, but we are counting on the continuing generosity of the congregation to make it happen. **As of now, we need to raise about \$5-6,000.**



Work day:

We are hosting a **work day at the Ansgar House from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. on Saturday, August 26.** We need help cleaning and polishing the house before the interns move in on August 28. We'll be cleaning kitchens and bathrooms, setting up bedrooms, doing some light projects, and other tasks. Many hands make light work, and we want the house to be a welcoming home for the interns, so come lend a hand!

Donations:

There are several more items that are still needed to make the Ansgar house a home. **You can help by donating some of the following items:**

New pillows (12)	Gently used box fans (4)	Gently used cooking pots (2)
Gently used twin sheet sets (10)	New toilet plungers (2)	Gently used frying pans (2)
New twin size mattress pads (6)	New toilet brushes (2)	Gently used brooms & dustpans (2)
Gently used full length door mirrors (2)	Gently used kitchen and bathroom garbage cans (2 each)	

It's all coming together! It's so fun to see what God is doing through this congregation! Thanks in advance for your help!



Q: What is God's name?

A: This question posed by a confirmand may sound simple, but it is actually very important and has several different aspects to it.

Although Christians today tend to use the word God as a name, it actually is not. God is a generic term for a divine being. We use capitalization to distinguish the one, true God from false gods like pagan idols. But that only shows that the word God, in itself, is not God's name.

The Bible also uses many metaphors to describe God. "O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer." "The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want." "The LORD is with me like a dread warrior." The examples go on and on, and they are all helpful images, but none of them are God's name. Some Christians today substitute metaphors or analogies for God's name, but they do not function in the same way.

The actual, personal name of the one true God is stated in two places in the Bible. When God sent Moses to Pharaoh in Egypt to demand that the Israelites be released from slavery, Moses asked for God's name to distinguish Him from all other gods. He responded in two ways. In Exodus 3:14, "God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM,'" a name that seems deliberately mysterious and tells us very little about God. (In Hebrew, this name is Yahweh, but most English Bibles translate it as "The LORD," using small capital letters.)

In Exodus 3:15, "God also said to Moses, 'Thus you shall say to the Israelites, "The LORD...the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you": This is my name forever, and this is my title for all generations.'" This name sounds more like a description, but it tells us that we can best learn who God *is* by studying what He has *done* in history.

For Christians, however, the New Testament supplies another personal name of God, not in any single verse, but in its overall testimony. It, too, comes in two different forms. Based on Jesus' own words, we confess that God is "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." That relationship is central to Jesus' ministry and to the Christian claim that he is Savior, Messiah and Lord.

Once the Christian Church had hammered out the doctrine of the Trinity, however, Christians have confessed that God's name is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is not chiefly a description of what God is like, but is the name by which He is known to us. So, while all four names for God in this article are valid, Christians mainly confess that the God revealed to us in Jesus is named Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Stewardship Matters

In 2022, offerings to Faith Lutheran suddenly and sharply dropped in August and September. There was no obvious reason for that decline, but it is the main reason that the church ended the year with a deficit.

As we head into August of 2023, we hope and pray that Faith does not see the same trend again. At the end of June, General Fund offerings were about \$45,000 behind expenses year-to-date. It is not unusual for a gap like that to open up during the year, but it will become a much bigger problem if the experience of last August and September occurs again.

Stewardship
A way of living

Please make weekly worship attendance a top priority and continue to give generously as the Lord first blesses you. **Thank You** for your faithful support of the ministry God is doing in and through Faith Lutheran Church!

Music at Faith

Welcome to August!
This month, there is a lot to look forward to and a lot of important information moving into the program year schedule.

Ringers of Faith

Rehearsals will start
Tuesday, August 29
from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
in the Music Room

Faith Singers

Rehearsals will start
Wednesday, August 30
from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
in the Music Room

NEW THIS YEAR! Faith Kids Music Club

After hearing the chief priests complain about children proclaiming Jesus' name in the temple courts, Jesus replied with these words from (Matthew 21:16), "Have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'" Children are an important part of the music and worship experience at Faith Lutheran. I am excited to announce a new music club for kids entering grades 2-4 is starting this fall! **We will meet in the Foundation space at Faith from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays** to learn about God's love through music and games that will be shared during worship on Sundays. If you have a student who loves to sing or play musical instruments, register him or her for Faith Kids Music Club today!

Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace

In his letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul warns about the works of the flesh. If we, in our sinful nature, do not actively oppose the desires of our own wants, we cannot live by the Spirit. Instead, more commonly known, Paul outlines the fruits of the Spirit and instructs us to live by the Spirit and be led by the Spirit. Follow us this fall with our ensemble theme, *Fruits of the Spirit*, as we look at the first three of Paul's nine fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, and peace.

If you are interested in any of the great opportunities above or want more information, talk to Austin for details. Ensemble registration link can be found on the church's web page: faithlc.com

Soli Deo Gloria



Back By Popular Demand! Mugs and Muffins Returns

Saturday, August 5, 2023, 9 - 11 a.m.

Ladies, dust off your mugs, grab a friend and meet in the Faith Center at Faith Lutheran Church for the return of Mugs and Muffins. Ladies of all ages are invited to come and enjoy a beverage, a treat, and a time of gathering together as sisters in Christ. Special guest speaker, Sarah Hingst, will share her inspiring story.



**Faith Lutheran
Church Women**



Ice Cream Sundaes on Sunday

The Congregational Life ministry team invites all members of Faith Lutheran to enjoy ice cream sundaes after worship on Sunday, August 6. Sundaes will be served in the Faith Center after the First Word service and following the 10:10 a.m. worship service at Library Square.



Outdoor Worship Continues

Outdoor worship will continue at Library Square through Sunday, September 10, which will include the Sunday School kick-off day at the park.

Questions?

Fellowship Against Cancer – FAcE Group



Next month the Fellowship Against Cancer (FAcE) group will host its second annual fellowship gathering. Those with cancer, and caregivers for those with cancer, are welcome to attend. Staff representatives from the Hutchinson Cancer Center will speak on trending cancer treatments. If you know someone who has cancer or is a caregiver of a cancer patient, please invite them to attend a FAcE session.

If you are 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?

Augustana District Women of the Word (WoW) 2023 Annual Gathering

September 16, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, MN

8:30 a.m. Check-in and Coffee ~ 9 a.m. Worship ~ 3 p.m. Dismissal

Cost is \$20 per person - *The Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) will pay the registration fee for any women from Faith who wish to attend and who turn in a registration form into the church office by August 27.*

Carpooling from Hutchinson is also available, please note if you want to do this on your registration form.

Offering during worship is designated to go to "The Table Ministry."

Childcare is available with pre-registration by September 1.

Please register for childcare by sending an e-mail to sjlcspringfieldmn@gmail.com.



The theme this year is "Faith Over Fear"

Behold God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid for the Lord God is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation. Isaiah 12:2

Guest speakers this year are Pastor Erica Varcoe and Pastor Jennifer Bennet.

Erica Varcoe is the Pastor of The Table Ministry in Sioux Falls, SD. Erica's dream of doing ministry in a way that met people where they are + Augustana District's 20/20 Initiative = The Table Ministry, Sioux Falls, South Dakota's, first Church in a Bar. Shenanigans Sports Bar plays home to the growing congregation and is a reminder of God's goodness coming for His people in the most unexpected places. Erica has been overwhelmed by the collegiality and support of the LCMC community. The mentorship and care from congregations from all across the United States cover The Table in prayers, generous gifts, and valued friendships. Erica is married to Paul. They have three children, Noah (16), Mollie (13), and Elias (7) who are being raised on Jesus and a LOT of sports bar food!



Jennifer Bennet is an LCMC pastor serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Jeffers, MN, and Bethany Lutheran Church in Storden, MN. She earned her M. Div. from Sioux Falls Seminary and is now pursuing a D. Min from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Her area of interest in doctoral study is the impact of emotional trauma on faith formation. She also serves LCMC on a team of Conflict Coaches to help congregations who request assistance with conflict resolution. In addition, Jennifer serves as a missionary to the former Soviet nation of Latvia through the SON Network, an LCMC ministry partner. Jennifer is passionate about teaching all ages, but especially children, and making the church a welcoming place full of positive energy and the

love of Christ. She is married to another LCMC pastor, Denton Bennet, who serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield, and they're both transplants to Minnesota from North Carolina. They met during seminary, and together they share nine children. The older seven kids are adults now, and all live in North Carolina. The youngest two kids, Stephanie, 14, and Luke, 8, still live at home. Together, they enjoy hiking and exploring the Minnesota wilderness, especially waterfalls, and taking in the winter scenery. Their favorite place to be is anywhere along the North Shore of Lake Superior.

Registration forms will be available in your church bulletins August 13 and 20 as well as in the church office. Remember to turn them in by August 27 to be eligible for the FLCW to pay your registration fee and to get plugged in for carpooling.

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 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

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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

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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

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Day Camp

August 7—10 from 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
at Faith Lutheran Church
Kindergarten through 5th grade students
\$25/ child

Faith Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church are partnering up again to host the Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps staff as they run day camp.

Children will learn about uncovering the truth of who God is and who we are through worship, crafts, snacks, games, and a Bible study each day.

Register your child by going to Faithlc.com under the Children & Youth/ Children Tab.



Uncovering the Truth

of who God is
and who we are

Would You Host the Camp Staff?

Faith has the opportunity and privilege to host the handful of camp staff by inviting them to sleep at a couple of congregation members' homes and/or invite them to join you for a dinner. You can either provide a homemade dinner or take them out for a meal. Please contact Laura Stowman if you are interested.



God Squad

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

Starting this Fall

Sunday School starts on September 10 with Fall Kickoff at Library Square at 9 a.m. This is for children 3 years old—6th grade.

56er's begins on September 13 after school and goes to 5 p.m. This is for 5th—6th graders.

Confirmation also starts on September 13 after school and goes to 5:30 p.m.. This is for 7th—8th graders.

FLY Night continues for all high school students on Wednesdays from 7:00—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.



A recap of our trip to Logan County, West Virginia



Just like that, another mission trip has begun fading into my memories. What an incredible trip to Logan County, West Virginia! Every trip starts the same: stretching ourselves by heading off to a new place. There's a lot of quiet anxiety on those first few days as we start to adjust to one another and being out of our comfort zones. We grow, we worship, and we laugh. What a gift!

Then we get to the worksite and our purpose is made clear. We are there to be the hands and feet of God. Our trip this year had many different service partners. We painted, hung out with kids, sanded a deck, tore down shrubs and trees, and sorted clothing. As we serve, the relationships naturally begin to get deeper. We start seeing Jesus in everything and everywhere. By the end of this trip, the only two words I could use to describe our trip are joy and family. This group bonded together and walked with each other through so much. The grace, love, and forgiveness that pours out is evident and incredible.



As we returned back to Hutchinson, I am reminded of how valuable it is to serve together. Not only that but how important it is to rely on Jesus in everything we do. He was surely with us and He held it all together as we traveled, served, and grew.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to serve in this place and to serve with these kids. Mission trips are invaluable. You will have the chance to hear more at both services on August 6.

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries