

# Faith Matters 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## January 2024

### Pastors' Page

At a recent staff meeting, Laura Stowman, Faith's Director of Children and Family Ministry, projected that there are so many children in Sunday School that she will need to use every classroom in the church starting next year. Other spaces will have to be identified for some Digging Deeper and other classes on Sundays.

One of the newer families at Faith reported that they had first tried to attend the Foundation service several years ago, but it was so full that day that they couldn't find a place to sit. They ended up joining another church for a while before returning to Faith and squeezing into what space is available.

Some long-time members of the church who generally enter and exit by the southwest sanctuary door commented on how few other people from the congregation they ever see. At least four different entrances into the church are regularly used on Sundays, so there is no common space where everyone is present.

These are just three anecdotes that illustrate the need for Faith Lutheran to complete Phase II of its long-term building plan. It is a tremendous blessing to see every square inch of our church being used for ministry, not just on Sundays, but throughout the week. It is also a great blessing—though of a different sort—not to

have enough room to handle all the ministry opportunities God keeps giving us here.

Over the last year, the Phase II Building Committee (P2BC) has been meeting with the architect who drew the original design for what we now call Phase II, before the project was split into two parts in order to make it affordable. Because Phase II has to fit on the city block that the church owns, the revised plan is not dramatically different from what was envisioned 15 years ago, but many important and exciting changes have been made.

Now it is time for the whole congregation to get in on the fun. The P2BC will present its work so far at the **annual meeting** of the congregation on **Sunday, January 28 at 12:00 noon**. The meeting will also include the usual reports and elections, but the P2BC presentation will be the highlight of the gathering. Put it on your calendar now so you don't miss this exciting look into the future of Faith Lutheran Church. Please pray for the P2BC members and the whole building process, for the resources needed to complete Phase II and that the finished project will serve God's will and purpose for years to come.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Scott Grorud



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SUNDAYS 10 A.M.  
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TUESDAYS 5 P.M.  
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Inside this issue:

Stump the Pastor	2
Seniors Scene	3
Digging Deeper	4
Children and Youth Info December Calendar	Insert
Intern Update and more	5
Missions	6
Staff Directory Prayer Requests	7

## STUMP THE pastor

*Q: Why isn't the visit of the Wise Men to see Jesus ever read during church?*

A: It isn't quite the case that the account of the Wise Men's visit in Matthew 2 is *never* read in church, but it is a rare occurrence. The reason for that gets a little complicated, but here it is.

In addition to the six main seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost), the church calendar also marks many special festival days. Some of those festivals move to the nearest Sunday. For example, Reformation Day is October 31, but it is celebrated on the last Sunday in

October, whatever date that is, while All Saints' Day is November 1, but moves ahead to the first Sunday in November, whatever date that may be.

Many other festival days, however, stay put, mostly because they are tied to other days on the calendar. That is the case with the visit of the Wise Men. It is celebrated on Epiphany Day, which is the first day of the season of Epiphany and comes right after the 12 days of Christmas. Since Christmas Day is always December 25, Epiphany Day always falls on January 6. Most years, that is a weekday, but the first Sunday after Epiphany Day marks the Baptism of our Lord, when Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist and that is considered important enough that Epiphany Day never displaces it.

In designing its calendar this way, the Church intended Epiphany Day to be treated like Christmas Day, with special worship services no matter what day of the week it was. Some churches still gather for Epiphany Day worship, but the practice has mostly faded away. The unfortunate result is that, in most years, Epiphany Day passes by largely unnoticed and the Wise Men's visit is rarely heard during Sunday services.

### Stewardship

For many years, offerings to Faith Lutheran have fallen well short of expenses during the year, requiring a tremendous outpouring of gifts in November and December to meet its annual expenses. Typically, the church receives 20-25% of all the offerings in a year in those two months. Thanks to God and the family of Faith, that late flood of giving has covered the gap most years and we pray that it will again this year. As of this writing, the need is still about \$85,000, even though the church will under-spend the 2023 budget by more than \$26,000.

Stewardship  
*A way of living*

Faith's leaders are profoundly grateful for those annual floods of offerings, but the habit of relying on enormous year-end giving is not a healthful way for the church to operate. The church's expenses continue steadily throughout the year and cannot be put off until the last two months. Should a year ever arrive when the flood of year-end gifts does not materialize, the church could be dangerously over-extended, even though spending was well within the budget approved at the annual meeting.

Could 2024 be the year that we break this habit or at least start to shift our offerings to spread them out more evenly? One key way to do that is to shift the focus of our giving from what the church needs to how God has blessed each one of us to be a blessing to others. If we, as the family of Faith, embraced giving a percentage of our income (whether 1%, 5%, 10% or some other portion) and gave it on a first-fruits basis, that is, as the first expense we record each week or month, the famine/feast cycle could be evened out and put our congregation on a much stronger financial base. Please pray for God to lead us toward this goal.

### Thrivent Choice Dollars

Direct your  
Thrivent Choice  
Dollars  
Today!



Do you have a Thrivent account? Did you know that you can direct Choice Dollars from Thrivent to the non-profit of your choice (like Faith Lutheran)? So far in 2023, \$2,822.76 has been directed to Faith for use as needed. Thank you to those of you who have directed your Choice Dollars to Faith. If you have not yet designated your 2023 Choice Dollars, you have until March 31, 2024 to do so.



## **Seniors' Scene**

*by Pastor Paulus Pilgrim*

Here we are in 2024. Happy New Year! Some of us are surprised we made it this far, or so I hear in conversations. Aging always keeps us wondering. But that's O.K. I hear many of you saying "getting up there in years" makes you think more and more about God's goodness in waking you up for a new day with His love and promises. That's a great way to wake up in the morning, and that won't stop with our death, because we live out each day conscious of another promise seen in the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John where Jesus tells us of another "raising us up." Three times in that chapter Jesus says to us, "...*and I will raise you up...*" from our final sleep, our death. I had one professor who said that going to sleep at night could prepare us for dying. When we go to sleep, we are giving up all control and resting totally in the arms of God. So too, when we die, we let ourselves go entirely into God's care. With the Psalmist we can say, "*Into Your hands I commit my spirit, for You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.*" This gracious God, who raised up His own Son every day He lived on earth and later raised Him from His tomb, will "*raise us up*" on the last day. It's a great way to go to sleep, both each night and at our death.

Meanwhile, we're now in winter. We can experience a get away from "winter blues" without ever leaving Minnesota, as many do. We can travel to Norway via a travelog at **Seniors' Potluck on Thursday, January 25**, beginning at **12:00 noon** with our potluck dinner. Our travel guide will be John Olsen. Bring a friend with you. "**See you at Seniors' Pot Luck!**"



## **Faith Lutheran Church Support Groups**

We are truly blessed with wonderful pastoral care efforts here at Faith Lutheran! People come together and, by faith and God's grace, they are helped. We have a number of books and resources used by these support groups. If you are interested in checking out a group or the material, or if you want to help offset the book costs for others, please let Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Marsha Schmit, or Jeff Amundson know.



## **Snow Birds**

*Are you a snowbird? Will you be heading south soon?  
Have you already left Hutchinson?*

Please make sure to let the church office know when you are leaving and when you will return, so that 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).

**If you are a snowbird, there are a number of ways to stay in touch with FLC while you are gone.**

- 1) Please contact the office with the dates that you will be away and your address change
- 2) Follow *FaithLutheranHutchinson* on Facebook
- 3) Check in weekly on the FLC website at *Faithlc.com* where you can find the Sunday sermons, weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, council minutes and the latest news
- 4) Follow Faith Lutheran Church on YouTube *@faithlchutch* to watch recorded services
- 5) Sign-up for the weekly E-news e-mail delivered each Friday morning.



Digging  
**DEEPER**

Digging Deeper sessions are held between services on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. A variety of topics are offered throughout the year. Continue to watch *Faith Matters* and Sunday bulletin announcements for the current opportunities and locations.

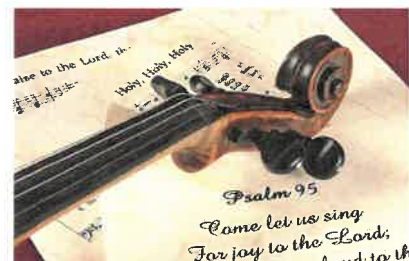
## Faith @ Home



This series will explore how we intentionally nurture faith in our homes. Engage in learning and discussions led by Pastor Dave, Laura, Kristen, and the interns, as they share their perspectives on children and teens. This class will meet in the upstairs conference room.

## Psalms in the Key of Life

Adapting the title of a Stevie Wonder album, *Songs in the Key of Life*, this class will explore different psalms, which were the songs of Israel and reflect every aspect of life lived in human community and before God. Meeting in the Faith Center, January 7 to February 11.



**THANK YOU** to all who have supported the efforts in funding the Ringers' handbell maintenance and repairs. Special thank you to those who helped organize, cook, clean, serve, and donate for the pie social in the fall and the recent candlelight dinner. Between both fundraisers, we have received **\$3,903** in donations. We now have enough to proceed with the repairs, but if you would still like to support the program, donations will be accepted for future upkeep, cleaning, and supplies. Stay tuned for further updates in the spring on the process of the bell cleaning.

## **Matins** Morning Prayer



*Matins* at Faith Lutheran Church: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in person or live on Facebook.

*Vespers* at Faith Lutheran Church: Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. in person or live on Facebook.

## **Vespers** Evening Prayer



During the season of Epiphany, join us for a *Vespers* service featuring the beloved "Holden Evening Prayer." *Vespers* will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 p.m. and run from January 10 through February 7. If you are interested in helping to lead these beautiful services, contact Austin Willhite for more information.

Where do these worship services come from? Both *Matins* (Latin for "morning") and *Vespers* (Latin for "evening") come from traditional practices of the

Christian church. *Matins*, also called Morning Prayer, gives thanks to God for the light of a new day and for protection through the night. *Vespers*, also called Evening Prayer, thanks God for the day at its close and serves as a time of reflection, as well as asking for protection through the night. Both services have significant imagery and language of light. Through prayers, psalms, and Gospel canticles, participants thank, praise, and call upon the light of Christ shining in and banishing the darkness.

*Matins* and *Vespers* are two of seven canonical hours (daily times of Christian prayer) that have remained a part of Lutheran liturgy today. Though their origins are old, these services are not just for the ancient monks of Middle Age monasteries. We encourage you to embrace these services as a time of respite from the busy week. Join us this month for *Vespers*, featuring the "Holden Evening Prayer."

The "Holden Evening Prayer" *Vespers* order was written by Marty Haugen in 1986 and has remained a favorite of Christians around the world since. While on a sabbatical, Haugen, who is originally from Wanamingo, Minnesota, stayed at Holden village located in the North Cascade mountains of Washington. Once a mining town, Holden Village now hosts a year-round retreat center for visitors. Inspired by the people of Holden Village in the peace and quiet of their slower winter season, Haugen composed and dedicated the "Holden Evening Prayer" during his stay. As his music and interpretation have inspired many Christians around the world, I hope that our services can be a place of peace and light for you during this dark and cold time of the year.

*Austin Willhite, Director of Music and Worship*



## Intern Update



### **The Flinterns Find Focus!**

The Flinterns (Faith Lutheran Interns) have completed their ministry tracks, gaining valuable insight and experience in each major area of ministry at Faith. Now they will move into their focus areas for the remainder of their time here. They were asked to designate a primary area, a secondary area, and then any areas they'd like to dabble in. Here is what they chose, including some comments about why:

**Trevor:** Youth Ministry with a secondary focus on Pastoral Ministry and some dabbling in Music and Worship. Trevor says, "I selected youth ministry

because I have found myself enjoying working with the youth even more so than I had originally anticipated I would... I hope to gain more experience and confidence working with middle and high school aged youth... I am most interested in harassing Kristen for an entire semester rather than a restrictive two weeks." 😎

**Courtney:** Children's Ministry with a secondary focus on marketing and some dabbling in pastoral care. Court says, "I love working with elementary/middle school students, and really have come to enjoy learning from and participating in the children's ministry opportunities at Faith Lutheran." The marketing components of Courtney's internship will also satisfy a degree requirement for her undergraduate degree. It will involve creating marketing materials for the internship program, further developing the church social media presence, and other projects.

**Joshua:** Youth Ministry with a secondary focus on A/V tech and video production. Joshua says, "I chose this track because I've enjoyed spending time with the youth and trying to push myself more to become a leader... I'm hoping to learn more about audio and video through more practical means, mainly through video production like filming and editing being used in a church setting."

## **Family Fest**

# **Fan The Flame**



Larson of *Family Fest Ministries* for a "Fan the Flame" event. A catered dinner will once again be served before the presentation begins. The event is free, but you need to reserve your tickets before March 1. Tickets will be available in February.

A free will offering will be accepted to help offset the costs.

## **Save the Date ~ Date Night is Back!**

Friday, March 8 from 6:30-9 p.m.

Plan now to join us with your sweetheart for an enriching evening with dinner and a speaker. We will welcome Pete

## **FLCW Notes**



The Faith Lutheran Church Women group has created a Facebook page to share their activities with you. If you are on Facebook, all you have to do is search Faith Lutheran Church Women Hutchinson MN to follow their page.

## **Mugs and Muffins**

***Saturday, January 6, 2024 beginning at 9:30 a.m.***

Have you ever wanted to try making freezer meals? Maybe you don't really understand what freezer meals are or how they can free up time for you and your family? Join us on January 6 for Mugs and Muffins, when Cyndi Lauer will share with us how she got started making freezer meals and how it has helped her.



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 28 at 12:00 noon**

## ANNUAL MEETING

As mentioned by Pastor Scott on the Pastors' Page, the annual meeting is coming up following worship on Sunday, January 28, at 12 noon. Along with the usual annual business, there will be a presentation and discussion about what the P2BC (Phase II Building Committee) has been planning. Lunch will be served between worship and the meeting so those attending the 10:10 a.m. services will not have to leave. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend to see all of the exciting things that are happening at Faith Lutheran.

### **Katie Weikle Continues Her Leadership with YWAM**

Katie, daughter of Own and Maria Weikle and sister of Laura (our Director of Children and Families), is a central leader of Youth with a Mission out of Nuremberg, Germany. This training center is doing marvelous work in preparing youth as well as some older witnesses who go to many different countries in multiple continents. She sends out intermittent newsletters that tell the exciting stories of young witnesses to the Good News we have in Jesus Christ.

Whether you have or do not yet have a passion for our Great Commission witness as followers of Jesus Christ, you would do well to learn more of what her leadership prepares others to share and where this leads to witness being expressed. Katie would be more than willing to add you to those who would like to receive her newsletter. You can e-mail her at [katie.weikle@ywamnuremberg.com](mailto:katie.weikle@ywamnuremberg.com).

Katie depends on congregations and individuals for her personal support. FLC supports Katie through our mission budget. You can also support her directly through YWAM or through donations to FLC designated specifically for her support.



### **missions UPDATE**

### **November Hunger Appeal Totals ~ Thank You!**

Our goal for this year was to raise a minimum of \$5,000. We are thrilled to announce that \$8,850.60 was received in November. Of that amount, 45% will be shared locally through Common Cup Ministries. International partners will receive 55% of the offerings: 30% will go to support the missions

of New Hope Mission Society and the last 25% will be sent to the Friends of Madagascar Mission. Thank you for your generous gifts in support of these missions.



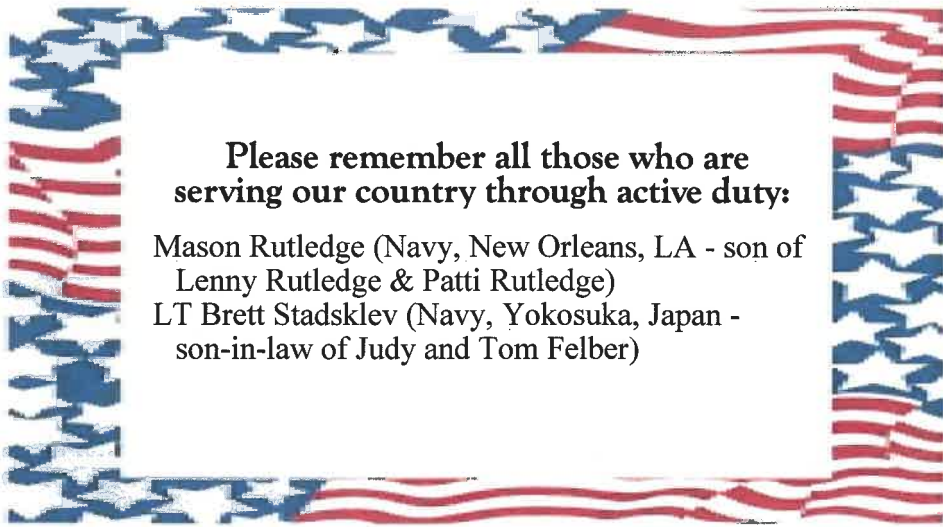
### **2024 Radio and Flower Sponsorship Boards**

If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast or purchase flowers for the altar in honor of, or in memory of, someone in the coming year, the new sign-up boards are posted on the kiosk outside the sanctuary. This year we have also added a board for flower donations for the Foundation services. You can find that board on the counter on the north end of the Foundation hallway. Thank you for these gifts to support FLC's worship and outreach.

## FLOWERS



# Please Remember in Prayer



**Please remember all those who are  
serving our country through active duty:**

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)



**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 Grorud	320-587-0171 (home)	scottg@faithlc.com
Dave Wollan	320-583-2385 (cell)	davidw@faithlc.com
Paul Knudson, Missions Ministry	320-587-2227 (home)	paulk@faithlc.com
Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation	320-234-9753 (home)	paulusp@faithlc.com

### **Staff**

Jeff Amundson, Pastoral Associate	320-587-2093 (office)	jeffa@faithlc.com
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
Erika Smith, Nursery Attendant		

### **Cedar Crest – Silver Lake**

Patricia Lambert

### **Cokato Nursing Home**

Clara Betker

### **Harmony River**

Ray Krueger  
Phyllis Lamp  
Jean Pittman  
Rose Wagner

### **New Haven - Maple Plain**

Ardell Novotny

### **Oaks**

Phyllis Blum

### **Pines**

Elaine Blade  
Frances Olson

### **The Gardens–Winsted**

Alice Poshek

### **Woodstone**

Dodie Fenske  
Cyndy Ollrich

# Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



## Sunday School

From the offerings of the Sunday School children, along with other donations from the church, we were able to pack 222 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

## B23

Join other families with children birth—3 years old in the nursery for a teaching and small group time. We will meet on January 21 from 9:15 a.m.—9:50 a.m..

## 56er's

Never too late to join 56er's!  
After school on Wednesdays until 5 p.m.  
for any 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

## Great Start

The next Great Start is on February 7 from 7:45 a.m.—10:20 a.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura Stowman.

## First Communion Instruction

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class will begin their First Communion Instruction classes on February 11. Students will receive letters with more information early this month.

If you have a child who is older than 6<sup>th</sup> grade who has not received instruction, but would like to do so this year, please contact the church office.

## 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.



## Tubing Nights

**Middle School:** Tuesday, February 6.  
**High School:** Wednesday, February 7.  
\$20/participant—forms will be sent out via e-mail and will be available in the church office.

## Confirmation

**Mentor Meeting**—Wednesday, January 24.

## FLY Night

Faith Lutheran Youth night continues for all high school students on Wednesdays from 7:00—9:30 p.m.  
**JOIN US FOR PARENT NIGHT ON Wednesday, January 17**



**MISSION TRIP MEETING**—Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30 pm in the Faith Center.

## Ansgar Community (Young Adult Community)

This group of college and young adults will meet on Sunday nights at 7 p.m. at the Ansgar House. Contact Kristen with any questions.

## High School Ecumenical Lunch Help

Faith Lutheran Church is serving the High School Ecumenical Lunch on Thursday, February 1. If you can help to serve the meal, please contact Kristen Durst.





## **Quality Conversation with your Child**

As a parent, you probably have a deep desire to have a strong relationship with your child. You have reflected on the relationships you have with your parents and other parental figures, appreciating what you've had and longing for more for your child. But how do you develop that relationship?

The art of quality conversation helps develop strong relationships. Conversations are incredibly important. Think about the conversations you've had with people over this past week, or the conversations you have with your dearest friends. The talks you've had with your parents during major life changes like when you were first pregnant, buying a house, getting married, starting your first adult career, or going off to college. Or the conversations at the dinner table when you were a child or teenager, either at weekly family meals or large family holidays. Maybe even conversations you had with a teacher, coach or mentor. How did you feel after those conversations? Besides joy, you probably felt known by them; a sense of closeness.

But what does a conversation with your child look like?

You should find one-on-one time to have conversations with your children. It could be in the car while you run errands, picking them up from school or practice, tossing a ball in the yard, doing a chore at home, going on a special outing, or at the beginning or ending of the day.

You can ask them about their day using specific questions that will have an answer beyond "yes," "no," or "fine," like "What was the best or worst part of today? Did anyone get in trouble today? What did you think about before you fell asleep last night?" Talk about life with them. "What's your favorite thing to do with mom/dad/sibling/friend? What do you think you are really good at? Bad at? Is there anything you want to tell me or ask me about? What do you pray about when you talk to God?"

It can help to show vulnerability. Sometimes your children want to share something with you, but they don't know how to start the conversation. Talk about what life was like or what you thought about when you were their age.

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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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