



Pastors' Page

Were you there?

This is one of the more profound Lenten and Holy Week questions, drawn from the haunting hymn which asks,

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there?

As we ponder this haunting question, one which causes us to tremble, we will be considering it through the eyes of those who *were* there. We will examine the events leading up to and around the crucifixion of our Lord.

- We will worship with the woman anointing Jesus' feet.
- We'll carry the cross with Simon of Cyrene.
- We'll flee from the scene with the young man.
- We'll stubbornly reject Jesus with the High Priest.
- We'll be baffled in the quest for truth with Pilate.
- We'll come late to the scene with Joseph of Arimathea.
- We'll agonize with Peter and Judas.

As we experience the Passion of the Christ through the eyes that were there, we will discover that *we really were there*. That we, too, were swept up in the agony and glory of the cross of Christ.

Lent comes early this year! Ash Wednesday is February 14; that's right, a Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday! As we journey through the season of Lent this year, we're going to be doing it a bit differently. Rather than our traditional round-robin with our partner congregations, this year we are going to be giving our fabulous Flinterns an opportunity to preach. Courtney, Trevor, and Joshua will team up with me and Pastor Scott in exploring the Passion events through the eyewitnesses who were there. Of course, we will again be blessed by our confirmation students as they assist in leading worship.

So join us! Be there, as we examine how we were there. Come, tremble, learn, and worship, as we journey to the cross together during this most holy time of the year!

See you in church!

Pastor Dave



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

LIVE TV BROADCAST
 SUNDAYS AT 8 A.M.
 NUVERA & MEDIACOM
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PRE-RECORDED BROADCASTS
 SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
 AND 5 P.M.
 TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
 THURSDAYS 10 P.M.
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STUMP THE PASTOR

Q: *Genesis 1 says that God made light on the first day, but the sun wasn't made until the fourth day. How can there be light without any sun?*

A: This very perceptive question came from Faith Lutheran's 56ers group that meets at the church on Wednesdays after school. It shows they were reading their Bibles very carefully!

The children are right that it makes no sense scientifically that God could create light on the first day of creation, but not make the sun and moon until the fourth day. Genesis 1, however, was not written chiefly to be either science or history. The author was far less interested in all the "when" and "how" questions that fascinate modern readers. Rather, it is *testimony* to Who created the world and why.

So what testimony does Genesis 1 give by separating the creation of light from the creation of the sun and moon? It is a witness against idolatry. All of Israel's neighbors were polytheists who worshiped the sun and moon as gods. They didn't see them as parts of creation endowed with a job to do, but as the actual creators of light for the day and night. Separating their formation from the creation of light in Genesis 1 was a way to emphasize that God is the creator of all things, including light, and that the sun and moon are not gods, but creatures designed by God to purvey the light to the earth. In fact, the account of the fourth day does not even call the sun and moon by their generic names, but names them only as "the greater light" and "the lesser light." All of that is meant to drain any "divine personality" out of those astronomical tools so that Israel would not worship them or even think of them as gods.

Seniors' Scene

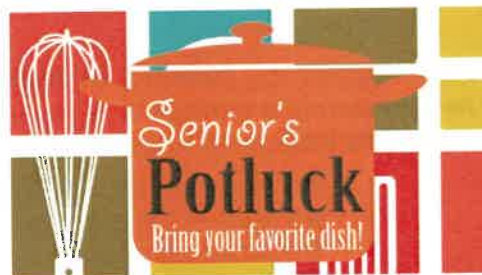
by Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

What was your confirmation instruction like? Did you have to memorize a lot of scripture and catechism? Was the pastor strict? Did you have to answer some questions the pastor asked in the front of the congregation? Did you have to write sermon notes? Did you write other papers? How did your confirmation help you for your Christian faith then and today? How does your confirmation instruction compare to today's program here at Faith? Maybe you don't know how we prepare our young people for confirmation, or maybe you are involved in it by mentoring, helping grandchildren, maybe even bumping into them on Wednesday nights.

Our next Seniors' Potluck will feature Pastor Scott sharing the answers to these questions, and more. Our steering committee set this up after hearing questions and some misunderstandings about our confirmation program. This should be interesting and informing.

Oh yes, and a bonus—some words about funerals. Pastor Scott will also help us understand the *purpose* of a funeral in a Christian church. Here's how you can get ready: discuss with someone else what should be the primary focus at a Christian funeral.

Don't miss Seniors' Potluck, Thursday, February 29, 2024 (yes, that is Leap Day!); beginning at 12:00 noon. Don't forget to bring a friend.



3rd Annual Handel's *Messiah* Concert Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Planning has started for the next *Messiah* concert. Rehearsals will be at Faith Lutheran Church on Wednesdays, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., beginning on February 21. For more information on how you can participate, obtain chorus music, instrumentals, or how to audition for solos, contact Austin at austinw@faithlc.com or call 320-587-2093.

MISSIONS

Seeing and Responding to Missions Close to Home

Reflections from Pastor Paul

Opening our eyes and our hearts to witness to Christ to people right in front of us, can be more difficult than we might imagine. For someone like me, it seems to come more naturally to see the “mission field” in faraway places like Ethiopia, India and Estonia. I am thankful that our Church in the World Team is also committed to reach our own Jerusalem, the Hutchinson community.

Through Common Cup Ministries, United Community Action Program (UCAP), and others we see both



opportunities and partners with whom we can and are working to address some of those needs. We often do not see the homeless or otherwise desperate people. Yet, through our trusted partners, we bring encouragement and explicit, tangible assistance.

One example, recently, if you came into the church reception area, you may have seen a number of back packs and baskets full of items that help homeless people meet needs we simply take for granted. One of our team members, with resources the congregation has access to, used those funds to purchase and then pack those items for those who come to UCAP without those basic necessities.

Yes, we all fall short of seeing need as our Lord Jesus sees them. We are thankful, however, that we have members who do see and call us forth to respond. We have partners in this community that are seeing and inviting us to respond.

Intern Update

To the congregation of Faith Lutheran,

I want to express my gratitude, as well as that of my fellow interns. We have received so many generous gifts, donations, and kind words throughout the year. The support and prayer we receive from the congregation make our work so fulfilling.

The internship has been a wild ride so far, but so much fun, and so educational. We recently finished our fall semester which means we are two weeks into our focus tracks, for which we are so excited. Courtney is focusing on children's ministry with Laura while Joshua and I focus on youth ministry with Kristen, and it makes for such a fun dynamic.

Recently, we have been learning the ropes of leading individual portions of the 56ers ministry in preparation for Laura's maternity leave. It has been such a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with the other interns. In addition to that, Joshua and I are beginning to help plan FLY youth nights, help out with high school free lunch on Thursdays and so many other

exciting opportunities. It's been so great to receive creative freedom to plan and coordinate new groups, such as a young men's Bible study coming up.

The internship has provided me so many blessings, but to identify a few, it is preparing me to step into the shoes of a position I am focusing on currently. It is affording me creative liberty to try new things in current ministries but also plan new ones. The internship is also giving me the opportunity to focus on the rule of life we identified and studied throughout the year so far at our YASP gatherings. I truly feel it is providing me blessings and a skillset that will benefit me and many others going forward.

Once again, we thank you all for your gracious support and prayers.

We thank and praise God for everything to come!

Trevor Wersal, Flintern



TREVOR

Stewardship Matters

We hope you have heard by now the good news that the family of Faith responded with such amazing generosity during last December that total offerings for 2023 not only met, but actually exceeded expenses! The leaders of Faith are so grateful for such commitment to this ministry. **Thank God and thanks to all of you** for your faithful support.

Stewardship
A way of living

There is a downside, though. Those year-end offerings comprised fully **25%** of everything given to the General Fund last year, while Faith's ministry costs are spread out evenly through the year. The church cannot put off a fourth of its expenses to pay in the last week of the year.

So, our plea to the Faith family in 2024 is to strive to spread out all those generous gifts more evenly among the 12 months of the year, so that next December will not require overcoming so large a deficit. One way to do that is to use Simply Giving to give your offerings electronically. That process is much simpler than it used to be. You can explore it on Faith's web site and call the church if you have any questions about it.

Phase II Building Committee (P2BC)

The P2BC and the architects recently presented the Phase II building proposal to Faith's ministry teams and church council. It got an enthusiastic response and we hope it will get the same reaction when it is presented to the whole congregation at the annual meeting. Once the basic footprint is approved, lots of fine tuning of the details will occur. Meanwhile, the huge task of raising the funds to make it possible will soon begin. Please pray for God to provide the resources to make this much-needed ministry space a reality!

Coffee Fundraiser to Support the 2024 Summer Mission Trip to Alabama

Do you like coffee? Do you like hearing mission trip stories from our youth? Have we got the fundraiser for you!

We have created a new fundraiser that will run on two Sundays, **February 25 and March 3**. The youth will be serving coffee and pastries at both entrances to the building from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, March 3, come during the Digging Deeper hour to hear stories and to sit and talk with kids about their mission trip experiences.

We hope that you can join us for this fundraiser!



BREWING A MISSION TRIP

8:30 am - 10:30 am
both Sundays

FLY YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

Sunday, February 25
Selling coffee between the services

Sunday, March 3
Conversation during Digging Deeper and selling coffee between the services

FLY YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20



Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship Opportunities

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14, there will be two worship services with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and at 6:30 p.m.

Lenten services will follow each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. through March 20.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Lent is followed by Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 24 at regular service times; Maundy Thursday on March 28 with services at 6 and 7:30 p.m. (including First Communion for those completing instruction); Good Friday with services at 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.; and concluding with Easter Sunday on March 31 with services at 6:00, 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



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 group participants. 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.



Cabin Fever - Game Day Sunday, March 3 from 2-4 p.m.

Card games, board games, bingo, and more!

Play what is here or bring your favorite game with you.

Bingo will start at 3:30 p.m.

Snacks will be provided or you can bring your own.

Bring a friend, bring the family and come out for an afternoon of indoor fun.

Family Fest Fan The Flame



will welcome Pete 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 mid-February.

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

Save the Date ~ Date Night is Back!

Friday, March 8, from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Plan now to join us with your sweetheart for an enriching evening with dinner and a marriage enrichment speaker. We



2024 Rummage Sale Plans

The Faith Lutheran Church Women are starting to plan for the 2024 Rummage Sale.

You can start saving items to donate. Donations will be accepted on April 15 and 16.

The sale itself will run April 18 and 19.

It takes many hands to put this sale together, so mark your calendars now to help with organization and set-up or to help with the actual sale.

If you are able to help, please reach out to Bobbi Knudson at 320-587-2227 and let her know. She will keep you apprised of all of the details as the event gets closer.



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.



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, church 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.



Thrivent Action Teams

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know that as a Thrivent member you can apply for two Thrivent Action Team grants per year? These projects can be fundraisers, educational events, or service activities. Past events for which members of Faith Lutheran Church have used Thrivent Action Team seed money include the Drive-In Diner, Operation Christmas Child boxes, high school ecumenical lunches, VBS, and more. Ideas for Action Teams are located by the stairs near the church office. To apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant, go to the Thrivent website or call your Thrivent representative.

If you have questions about specific events, you can also call the church office.

Newsletter via USPS or E-mail?

Would you be willing to receive your monthly copy of *Faith Matters* via e-mail?

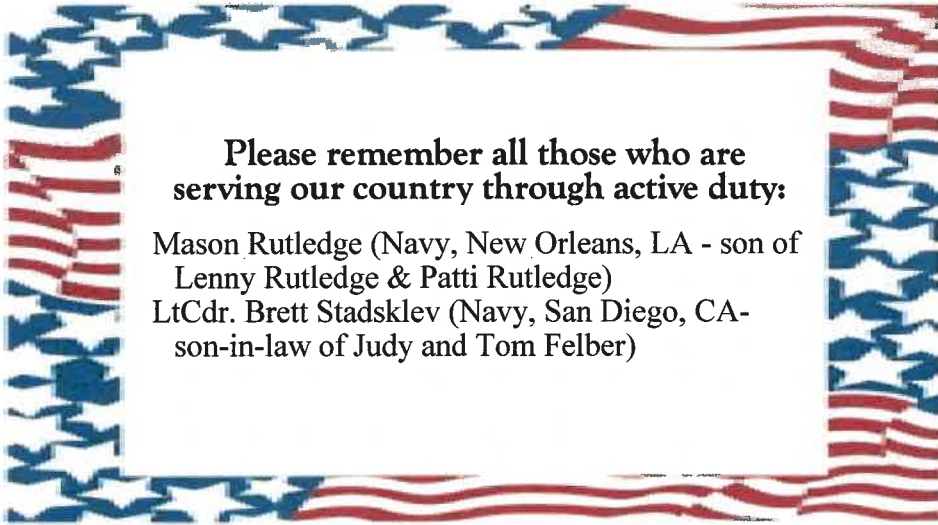
It saves the church postage and printing costs, and you get to see it in color every month! You can request a change to e-mailed newsletters by sending a request to office@faithlc.com or calling Wendy at 320-587-2093.



*Find more information and
schedule updates
on the church
website at
Faithlc.com !*



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)
LtCdr. Brett Stadskev (Navy, San Diego, CA-
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

New Haven - Maple Plain

Ardell Novotny

Oaks

Phyllis Blum

Alice Poshek

Pines

Elaine Blade

Frances Olson

Woodstone

Dodie Fenske

Cyndy Ollrich



Meaningful Ways to Observe Lent this Year

What is Lent?

The season of Lent is the six-weeks leading up to Easter. It is considered to be a forty day period, but Sundays are not counted. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday. Lent is meant to be a season of preparation and remembering the love of God that is poured out through Jesus by His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave that brings us eternal life.

Why Observe Lent?

Lent is a time when we set aside forty days to remember Jesus' sacrifice, enter into His sufferings, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of the resurrection similar to when Jesus went into the desert for forty days of fasting and prayer. Jesus deprived himself of food, but gave his attention to something that was even more life-giving than bread, the presence of His Father.

Lent is often seen as a time to give something up, but it is more than that. It is an invitation to go deeper with God, carving out more time to worship, be in prayer, and reading God's Word.

How Do We Observe Lent as a Family?

- Explain what Lent is and why we observe it. Talk about Jesus' sacrifice for us. Share about how God sent Jesus to spend forty days in the wilderness.
- Invite your family to come up with something together to give up. Don't force your children (or spouse) to give something up that will just make them grumpy.
- Lastly, plan together what your family will add to your weekly schedule that brings glory to God and prepares your hearts for the resurrection celebration. It could be attending Wednesday Lenten worship services, praying together, memorizing Scripture, or reading your Bibles.

When you celebrate Lent as a family, it is important not simply to focus on what you are giving up, but truly focus on giving glory to God.

Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministries

Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Dates



Sunday School

The Sunday School children are beginning their SOLA curriculum unit where each age group is learning something different about church or from Luther's Small Catechism. The Preschoolers are learning about the church, Kindergarten—1st grade is learning about the seasons of the church, 2nd—3rd grade is learning about the Ten Commandments, and 4th—5th grade is learning about the Apostles' Creed.

B23

Join other families with children birth—3 years old in the nursery for a teaching and small group time. We will meet on February 18 from 9:15 a.m.—9:50 a.m..

56ers

Never too late to join 56ers!
After school on Wednesdays until 5 p.m. for any 5th and 6th grader.

Great Start

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

First Communion Instruction

The 6th-grade class will take their First Communion instruction beginning February 11. Students will be receiving letters with more information.

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

**A Game Day for
ALL ages!
Sunday, March
3, 2-4 p.m.**



**Tubing Nights—\$20 per Youth
Registration Deadline is January 31**
Registration forms are available from Kristen and in the church office.

Both groups will leave from Faith and will return about 10 p.m. to Faith.

Middle School: Tuesday, February 6, meet at 5 p.m., leave at 5:15 p.m. via bus.

High School: Wednesday, February 7, meet at 5:15 p.m. leave at 5:30 p.m. Leaders will drive for this event.

Confirmation

Mentor Meeting—Wednesday, April 17.

FLY Night

Faith Lutheran Youth night continues for all high school students on Wednesdays from 7:00—9:30 p.m.

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.

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.

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
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

